



THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 1997 (IR45p) 40p

Election '97
UNIONS HAUNT LABOUR
CENTRAL OFFICE WOBLES PAGES 6 & 7

IN THE TABLOID
ANTHONY MINGHELLA'S BIG SECRET

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TABLOID PAGE 26

How green is your party?

Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

A sleeping giant stirred in the election campaign yesterday. Environmental spokesmen from the three main parties met to debate green issues - the first time they have ever done so outside the House of Commons.

Swampy-style green activists may have no faith and much contempt for the conventional political process, but yesterday's fierce exchanges - organised by Friends of the Earth - demonstrated at least that the main parties feel they cannot ignore protection of the environment.

The passionate argument contrasted with the rest of yesterday's campaigning, which dwelt on issues such as Labour's relations with the unions and an arcane debate on whether a judge would rule on disputes over recognition of trade unions.

The green debate was won convincingly by the Liberal Democrats, who have radical plans for tax reform. But Labour's environmental protection spokesman, Michael Meacher,



Politicians and the environment

CONSERVATIVES
No specific commitments from John Gummer prior to the manifesto launch. Policies launched in Government to be continued - on financial incentives and charges to protect the environment, halting out of town development, protecting wildlife in partnership with voluntary groups, ending overfishing of the North Sea and cutting carbon dioxide emissions.

LABOUR
Carbon dioxide emissions to be cut by 20 per cent through funding energy conservation schemes in housing, boosting non-polluting renewable energy sources and introducing "an integrated public transport strategy". More prosecutions of companies by the Government's Environment Agency and Drinking Water Inspectorate.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
A greenfield development tax, discouraging development in the countryside or urban green sites. Funds raised would be used to cut business rates. Scrapping the EU's Common Fisheries Policy. A carbon tax on fossil fuels with revenues used to cut VAT and employers' NI contributions.

Rolling countryside in the Garden of England. The parties yesterday put green issues back on the agenda. Photograph: Brian Hems

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called their programme "a list of dreams from a party that will never have to try to put those dreams into effect".

The Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, promised that under the Conservatives the duty on petrol would keep on rising year by year, at 5 per cent annually, to encourage fuel-efficient, less polluting cars. And he said the Tory manifesto would pledge other green budgetary reforms. Mr Meacher, in typically careful Labour-speak, would make no commitment on fuel duties, saying that was a matter for a Labour Chancellor. But the Liberal Democrats have the most punitive policy on petrol prices. Their spokesman, Matthew Taylor, said not only

would fuel duties carry on rising by 5 per cent a year - the Government's existing, ecotax commitment - but there would be an additional 4p tax on a litre of petrol.

This is needed to fund the Liberal Democrat plans to slash the cost of a tax disc for all cars with engines under 1600cc by 93 per cent, from £145 to £10, intended to encourage a shift to cars which use less petrol and produce fewer climate-changing

greenhouse gases in their exhausts.

The third party's tax disc and petrol duty changes would be phased in over four years. "We will encourage people to dump their gas guzzlers," said Mr Taylor.

The Liberal Democrats are also putting the finishing touches to proposals for a carbon tax, aimed at cutting consumption of coal, oil and gas thereby reducing Britain's emissions of

greenhouse gases. The money raised would be used to cut VAT across the board and to cut employers' National Insurance Contributions.

For Labour, Michael Meacher, pledged that 10 per cent of Britain's electricity would be generated by non-polluting renewable energy sources such as the wind and sun by 2010. Tens of thousands of unemployed young people would get pay and training in an environmental

task force, working on nature conservation, energy conservation and recycling.

The debate was held in front of journalists. All three spokesmen agreed that man-made climate change was the most important and intractable environmental problem. Mr Meacher pledged that Labour would cut annual carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent of their 1990 level by 2010; the others said his party simply could not deliver this.

Mr Gummer admitted what green groups had long suspected - that he has been held back in pushing through environmental policies he wanted. But he blamed his difficulties on a lack of effective opposition from the Labour Party which, he said, had shown little interest until a few months ago.

Uta Bellion, policy director of Friends of the Earth, who chaired the debate, said she was disappointed neither of the two

main parties had made firm commitments on environmental tax reform, which means more tax on "bads" like pollution and resource depletion and less tax on "goods" like employment and income.

Jonathon Porritt, the former Friends of the Earth director, said he believed environmental issues had crept up the politicians' agenda. "I've been encouraged, this isn't a bad start to the campaign."

Meanwhile Greenpeace stayed well away from the campaigning and set course for the Atlantic Ocean. It joined giants like Shell and BP in applying for oil exploration and development licences covering 22,000 square miles of deep and stormy waters to the north and west of Scotland. It has no intention of looking for oil. Its application, which cost £3,000, is intended to highlight its objections to any new offshore oil developments.

Youngest girl killer, aged 12

Kim Sengupta

A teenager yesterday became Britain's youngest girl murderer when she was convicted of stabbing a woman 29 times in a killing she committed at the age of 12.

Sharon Carr, now 17, from Camberley, Surrey, was detained at Her Majesty's pleasure for murdering Katie Rackliff, aged 18, in 1992.

Sentencing Carr at Winchester Crown Court, Mr Justice Scott Baker said she was "an extremely dangerous young woman". He lifted an order banning identification which had been in force during the trial.

He said: "What is clear is that you had a sexual motive for this killing and it is apparent both from the brutal manner in which you mutilated her body and chilling entries in your diary recordings you had done, that killing, as you put it, turns you on."

The judge said the evidence suggested that Carr was not alone when Ms Rackliff, a trainee hairdresser, was murdered on her way home from a nightclub in Camberley. Her mutilated body was found four miles away.

The court was told Carr had a previous conviction for stabbing a 13-year-old fellow pupil

at her school - which had taken place on the second anniversary of Ms Rackliff's murder. Detectives in the Rackliff case were alerted by staff at the young offenders' institution.

Your diaries show that this turned you on

where Carr was detained for the stabbing, after she began talking about the killing and writing about it in her diary.

After the jury arrived at their

verdict following five hours' deliberation, Ms Rackliff's father, Joseph Rackliff, 58, said of Carr: "I hope she rots in hell... she should have hung, shouldn't she?"

"Obviously we are very relieved at the verdict, but it doesn't bring Katie back at all. It is still a very sad occasion for us. It's been a tough five years. We are still, as you can see, grieving people and remain that way for the rest of our lives."

In 1988, Mary Bell, 11, was convicted of killing two boys aged four and three in Newcastle. But she was found guilty of manslaughter, not murder.

Born to be a killer, page 4

QUICKLY

Judge defends himself

Judge Anura Cooray last night defended his decision to jail two women jurors for contempt of court after their failure to reach a verdict for "personal reasons". He said jurors had to recognise their responsibilities if the criminal justice system was to be upheld. Judge Cooray split legal opinion after sentencing Bonnie Schot and Carol Barclay to 30 days. Page 3

MoD abuse warning

The Ministry of Defence has received a final warning to show real commitment to racial equality or face legal action. The Commission for Racial Equality said not enough progress had been made in overcoming discrimination. Page 9

Cockney sparrow shows dialect is for the birds

Matthew Brace

The hedgerows are in uproar. Cockney sparrows think their Scouse cousins are twittering northern gibberish, and chaffinches in Tyneside cannot make head or tail of the songs sung by their soft, southern relatives in Dorset.

According to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the difference between birds' regional accents is so great that moving a Scottish song bird to a bush in the south of England would have disastrous results when it comes to breeding.

The loudest male gets the choice of female mates, and in the words of the RSPB's Chris Harbord, a bird out of his local patch "simply couldn't pull the birds, so to speak".



"These dialects are found in birds in isolated communities, ones that don't move outside their local areas. One young bird will hit upon a song sung by its elder relatives and will copy it. "It might be quite different to a song from a relative in another part of the country."

The disparity in bird accents has long been recognised, but new research from a language and communication professor at Oxford University adds weight to the beliefs. Professor Jean Aitchison, the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford, who gave the Reith lectures last year, has found that human language has more in common with bird song than the calls of apes.

"The links are stronger, because apes don't have the ability to make a series of distinct different sounds like humans do," she said. "We are able to probably because we can walk upright and have developed an L-shaped vocal tract which produces sounds other than purely nasal ones, like birds." So, just as a baby grows up with a rich local lilt, so does a young bird.

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BEST FILM

WINNER DIRECTOR: ANTHONY MINGHELLA

WINNER ACTRESS: JULIE DANDY

WINNER ACTOR: KIRSTIN SCOTT THOMAS

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

shorts

Mr Harry Hyams: an apology

In the course of an essay entitled "Fosterland" in *The Independent* (18 December 1996), Jonathan Glancey suggested that Harry Hyams kept Centre Point empty for many years in the hope of a rise in the value of office rents. We accept that this allegation is false and without foundation. *The Independent* and Jonathan Glancey apologise to Mr Hyams for making this suggestion and have paid him a substantial sum in damages together with his full legal costs.

Gang storms airport protest camp

More trouble broke out at the Manchester airport protest against the construction of a £172m new runway yesterday after a gang of up to 30 outsiders tried to break into the peace camp.

Cheshire police blamed outsiders for the latest confrontation with the police. They had arrived at the site in the middle of the night in taxis and there was conflict when the protesters refused to let them on site. Two of the men, aged 37 and 38, were arrested in connection with allegations of criminal damage to a fence, a police spokeswoman said. They have been bailed to appear before Crown magistrates on 30 May. It was unclear whether they were vigilantes intent on attacking the camp or would-be infiltrators advocating tougher opposition to the runway expansion.

The runway contractors, AMEC and Tarmac, are to go to the High Court on Thursday to begin eviction proceedings against the protesters.

Sion Jenkins wins £250,000 bail

Deputy headmaster Sion Jenkins, who is charged with the murder of his 13-year-old foster daughter, Billie-Jo, was yesterday released on £250,000 bail.

After an emergency application to Lewes Crown Court, Jenkins, 39, was freed on conditional bail. Last week, he was remanded in custody for a month after being charged with the murder on 14 March. He has spent two weeks in custody.

Mr Jenkins' solicitor, Brendan Salisbury, was unavailable for comment.

Billie-Jo was bludgeoned to death with a metal tent spike at the family home in Lower Park Road, Hastings, on 15 February.

Late reprieve for Jamaican girl

The seven-year-old girl facing deportation to a Jamaican orphanage has today had her return deferred after Jamaican social services requested further information on the case.

Whitney Forrester was due to be sent away today, despite pleas from her natural father Gilroy, who has lived in this country for nearly seven years, that he was able and willing to care for her.

Solicitors for Whitney's family had claimed that the JSS were not aware of the fact and yesterday received a fax asking for her return to be deferred as a result of "recent developments" until further information is provided. The case will be considered again on 4 April.

Judge rejects sex offenders' claim

Five convicted sex offenders who deny they are guilty yesterday lost a test case challenge to the way Home Secretary Michael Howard has handled their cases.

A judge rejected their claim that Mr Howard was operating a "rigid and over-strict" policy which unfairly and unlawfully blocked early parole and enhanced privileges because their claims of innocence meant they could not take part in the prison sexual offenders' treatment programme (SOTP).

Rejecting their application for judicial review, Mr Justice Laws said "the very gravity" of the original offences meant that the starting-point for improving their conditions, or considering the question of parole, had to be whether they posed an "unacceptable future risk". He said: "It could only be dispelled by some material to show that the offender has changed, is motivated to avoid such conduct if and when he is released."

Marconi archive is saved for nation

One of Britain's most important privately owned archives, the Marconi collection, is to be saved for the nation.

GEC-Marconi is donating to the Science Museum 5,000 documents and 300 items of early wireless equipment associated with Guglielmo Marconi, the man who invented the world's first radio transmitter. The collection had been due to be sold at Christie's next month, but, following adverse press and TV publicity, GEC-Marconi cancelled the sale and decided to donate the collection to the nation.

All the documents and most of the early wireless items are likely to be housed in a new museum in Chelmsford, Essex, the town where Marconi established the world's first wireless factory in 1898.

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people



The eyes have it: Mel B of the Spice Girls shows her appreciation after being named Female Spectacle Wearer of the Year. Comedian Vic Reeves topped the poll for men. (Photograph: PA)

Spiderman ready to grapple with the ultimate challenge

Alain Robert has finally got what he wants: permission to climb the world's tallest building, without ropes or mechanical aids. Mr Robert, 34, a French rock climber, was yesterday given clearance by the Malaysian government to climb the Petronas twin towers, which are 452 metres (1,483 ft) high, on 5 April. Last week he reached the 60th floor of the 88-storey buildings on an unauthorised attempt, before being pulled in through a window by policemen.

Mr Robert is well known to police forces around the world. His arrival in a country usually presages an attempt to scale its highest building unaided. He has climbed skyscrapers including the Empire State Building in New York, Canary Wharf in London, the Far East Finance Center in Hong Kong and the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. A recent attempt to climb the Sydney Tower was stopped by police.

His exploits have earned him the nicknames of "Spiderman", "the human fly" and (less generously) "madman", though professional climbers tend to regard his efforts with disdain; even the Petronas Towers are comparatively short

climbs by mountaineering standards. However, the consequence of a slip, whether through carelessness or fatigue, would be fatal. He plans to train for next week's attempt with a rigorous schedule involving push-ups with one hand, one elbow and even one finger. During the climb he will have his hands and a pair of sticky rubber shoes, though he could rest on various features of the building.

Robert has pledged to raise funds for charity with the climb, his latest adventure since he began scaling buildings at the age of 13. In Kuala Lumpur, he said he hoped to "make plenty of money" from the climbing show. He will retain 10 per cent of the collections. It was not clear whether television rights would be sold for the event or whether authorities planned to charge spectators. Asked if he was scared of falling, Robert simply said: "I have climbed really difficult ones and succeeded."

The Malaysian government said it had decided to grant permission in appreciation of his abilities, and also because it would generate publicity for the world's tallest building, owned by the national oil company, Petronas.

Charles Arthur

Bush takes a giant leap into big blue yonder

The former US president, George Bush, 72 years young, took to the skies over the Arizona desert yesterday to make the second parachute jump of his life, and his first "for fun".

Wearing a snazzy red, white and blue flying suit, provided by the US Parachute Association, and flanked by two of the US Army's crack Golden Knights parachutists, Mr Bush (right) leapt out of the plane over the Yuma army base, landing 20 minutes later without mishap.

Asked how he felt, Mr Bush—who was not known for demonstrativeness or exuberance as president—made a thumbs-up gesture and said: "Like that!"

It was almost 53 years since Mr Bush had made his first jump—for his life—when his fighter plane was shot down by the Japanese over the Pacific during the Second World War. The other two crew members were killed, but Mr Bush survived, winning the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery. Ever after, he was said to have promised himself that he would one day make a parachute jump that was not an emergency.

Fun or not, nothing was left to chance yesterday. Eight hours of training and a thorough medical check preceded the jump. And although a civilian plane was used, the two Golden Knights held the



former president on a harness until his parachute opened at 4,500 feet. An emergency medical team stood by on the ground, just in case.

With his successful jump yesterday, Bush neatly turned the tables on his youthful vanquisher of the 1992 presidential election, Bill Clinton has now graduated to crutches, since turning up in a wheelchair for the Helsinki summit with Boris Yeltsin after damaging his knee in the singularly unadventurous act of falling downstairs.

Before the jump, a spokeswoman for the regional branch of the US Parachute Association said—in words that will provide consolation to any aspiring septuagenarian skydiver: "He's in good health, fit and perfectly capable of doing it." As, indeed, he proved.

Mary Dejevsky, Washington

Honesty is best, says charity chief

James Deutsch, a 33-year-old biologist, who is HIV-positive, is to become the new chief executive of the Aids charity, Crusaid. By openly admitting his condition, Mr Deutsch, who is currently a lecturer in the Biology Department at Imperial College, London, is hoping to help change attitudes to HIV in Britain.

"I think Britain has been surprisingly lacking in public people who have HIV and talk about it. People's understanding has suffered as a result," said Mr Deutsch, who is originally from New York, but has lived in England for 10 years.

"Most of us who are gay have had to go through a period when we have had to lie about that. Having got through that, you usually do not want to go through any further periods of deception," he added.

Crusaid is a fund-raising publicity generating charity, with an income of about £1.3m, which gives grants to smaller Aids charities and administers a small hardship fund for people with HIV and Aids.

Deutsch, who was educated at Harvard University and King's College, Cambridge, believes that Aids and HIV is in a transition period, between being an untreatable fatal disease and a manageable chronic illness. "Developments in treatment over the last year have made it less obvious that charitable giving is still necessary. But people still need information, so that they can decide whether or not they want to be tested and what treatment they need."

Annabel Ferriman

briefing

TRANSPORT

Computer model sees birth of the virtual road-hog

Virtual road-hogs have been created in the first computer-generated traffic model to simulate the temperament of drivers. The programme is able to categorise motorists as "timid", "ideal", "normal", "impatient" or "aggressive". If adjusted to worsen motorists' driving by making them more aggressive or hesitant, it is possible to set up crashes, jams, road blockages, and the effect on traffic of slow or speedy vehicles can also be reproduced.

The model, invented by computational physicist Dr Laurence Howe, is designed to help motorway planners by simulating realistic traffic situations. Other computer models show the effect of dense traffic flow, hold-ups and speed limits. But Dr Howe's system adds a human dimension by including motorists' moods.

Drivers' characteristics are determined by factors like how close they approach the vehicle in front, the speed at which they change lanes, and their personal reaction times to incidents. Details of the different types of vehicle, describing their speed, engine power, weight, length and braking time, are also entered.

Dr Howe will present the model tomorrow at the Institute of Physics Annual Congress in Leeds.

TECHNOLOGY

The power of speech on the move

From next week, mobile telephone users in Singapore will quite literally be able to call people they want to talk to. SingTel Mobile, the monopoly supplier of mobile services, is offering subscribers voice recognition software which will let them record their own voices saying up to 30 names, with the corresponding phone numbers. When the system hears the owner saying the name, it will automatically dial the number. SingTel Mobile said the service would be useful for dialling numbers while driving, and would also be a boon for the blind.

The initiative is part of a wider effort by the Singapore government to make the country as technologically advanced as possible, in which it is introducing competition in the telecom industry and expanding computer provision across government and business—while keeping its strict censorship and behaviour laws intact.

Charles Arthur

SOCIETY

Young live in fear of homelessness

Four out of five young people are more scared of being homeless than of being unemployed, according to a major new survey on behalf of Shelter. And 60 per cent said that they would not know which services to turn to if they were made homeless.

The survey of more than 1,000 young people aged 16-25 was commissioned by the homeless charity and the Midland Bank, which today launches a £1m study aimed at getting young people off the streets.

Three-quarters of those surveyed believed it was difficult or very difficult to get a permanent home. And nearly six out of 10 wanted more information to be provided through schools.

An estimated 140,937 young people were homeless, according to last year's National Inquiry into Youth Homelessness.

Glenda Cooper



AVIATION

Curbs urged on daredevil pilots

Daredevil pilots could face tough new curbs after figures released by the Civil Aviation Authority showed human error was the main cause of fatal crashes. It judged "low-altitude aerobatics" were responsible for nearly one in five of light aircraft fatal accidents from 1982-94, the CAA said yesterday.

The authority is recommending that private pilot licence-holders should be banned from performing solo aerobatics until they hold a special aerobatic rating.

Pilots would also have to have a proficiency check with an authorised flying instructor every two years and trainees would have to attend special training.

The research also showed that 20 per cent of accidents were caused by poor navigation and another one in five crashes were due to bad weather. There were 166 fatal accidents involving light aircraft and helicopters between 1985 and 1994, with 234 people killed in planes and 46 in helicopters.

Randeep Ramesh

HEALTH

Cancer link to HRT refuted

Doctors should not rule out prescribing hormone replacement therapy to women who have had breast cancer, according to new research from the University of California.

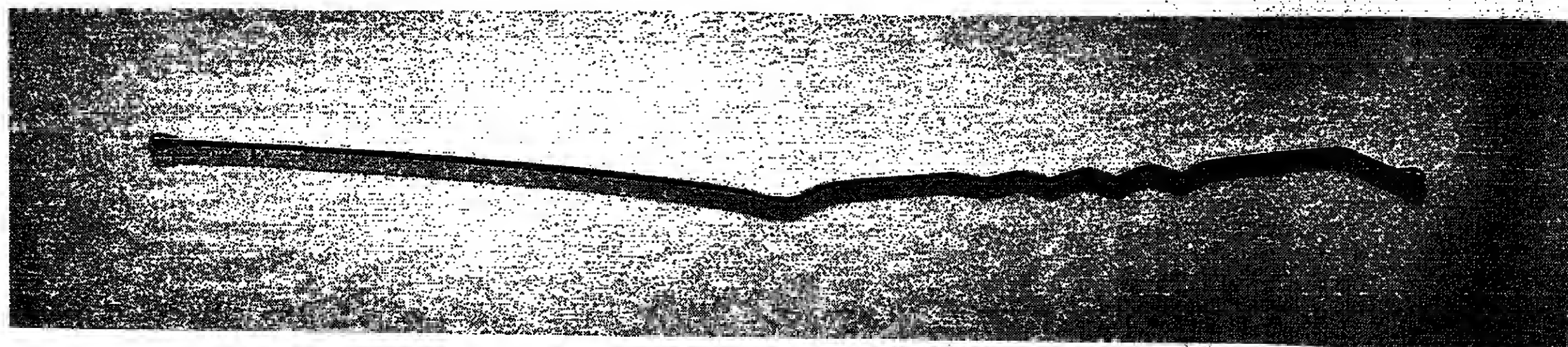
A group of 145 women, all of whom had had breast cancer, were treated with oestrogen for an average of two and a half years. The incidence of cancer recurrence was comparable to that of patients who did not take oestrogen. Of the test group, 129 are still alive and show no sign of the cancer coming back, 13 had a recurrence, two died of ovarian cancer and one of endometrial cancer.

Dr Wendy Brewster, who is to present her results at the annual meeting of the Society of Gynaecological Oncologists in Phoenix, Arizona, said that since oestrogen supplements protected against a wide range of diseases, including osteoporosis and heart disease, and that most women with breast cancer will die of some other cause, they should not be denied "the opportunity to protect their health and quality of life".

Annabel Ferriman



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996



Hairpin by quattro.

Oscar night triumph: British film sweeps the board as producers' struggle falls under spotlight

Good news for the Patient, but film industry remains in casualty

Rob Brown
Media Editor

With *The English Patient* pulling off an unprecedented Oscar triumph, yesterday should have been a day of wild celebration for everyone associated with movie-making on this sceptred isle, but the director of the British Film Institute, Will Stevenson, had no difficulty containing himself.

Naturally, Mr Stevenson warmly welcomes the fact that a British film had scooped nine Academy Awards, but he remains disturbed by the fact that Britain is making more and more movies which no one in this country will ever see.

"It's a colossal mountain," he declares gloomily, pointing to figures which show that half the films made in the UK do not receive any sort of domestic cinema release, being cast aside by the American giants which dominate distribution in Britain.

"It's ridiculous and, strangely, a market failure to have great films which no one sees," sighs Mr Stevenson, who warns that a glut in British films is now a real danger.

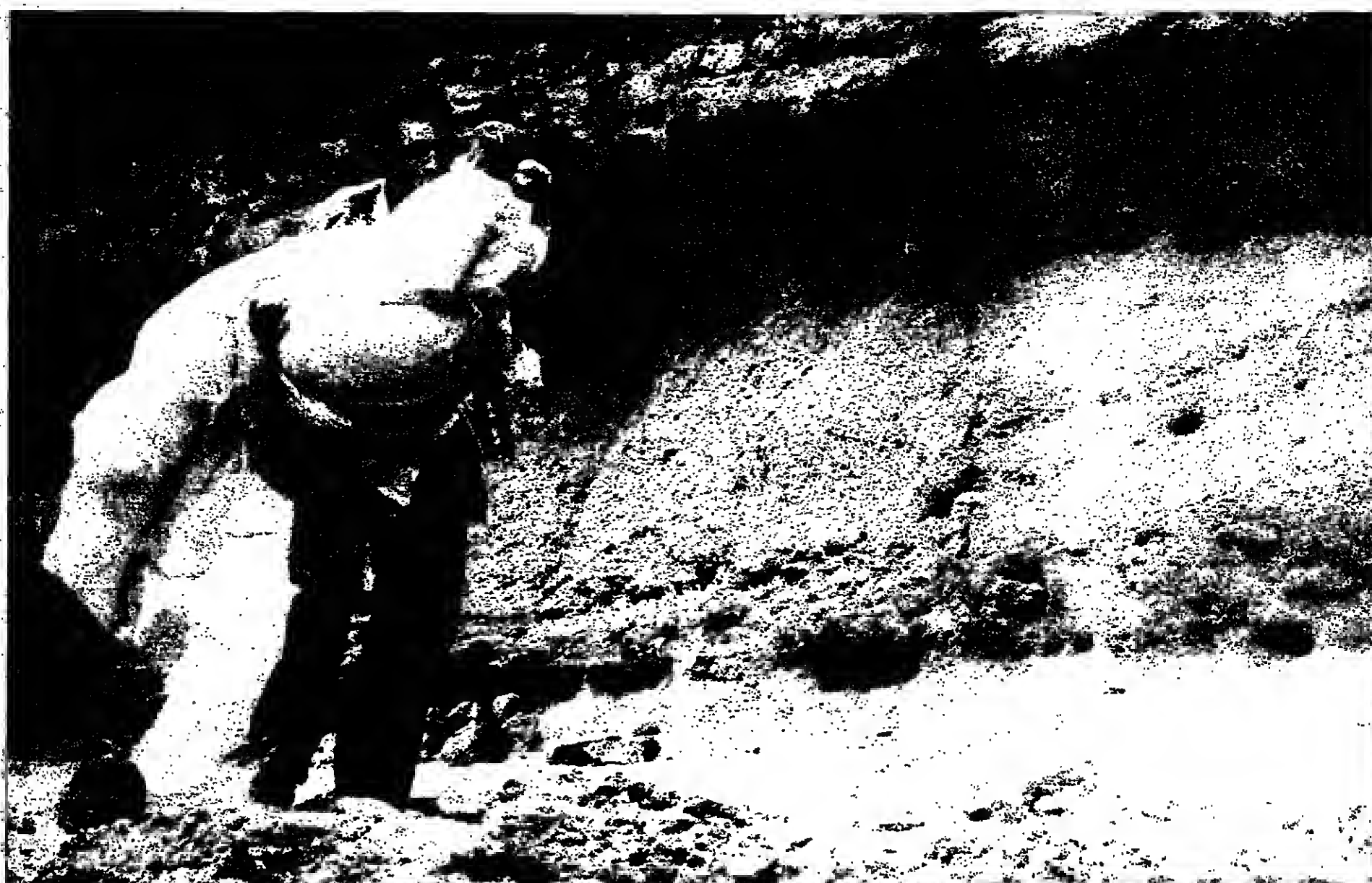
Aided by the National Lottery, British film-makers are enjoying something of a boom: investment in UK productions has increased by 60 per cent from £394m in 1995 to £655m in 1996.

Last year there were 121 features made by British companies or by foreign companies using UK crews, facilities and locations, a sharp increase on the 73 movies made here in 1995.

But the picture becomes a lot bleaker when we zoom in and look at what proportion of these films actually get released. In 1994 – the last year for which figures are available – less than a third of British films (31 per cent) were put on wide release; that is, shown on 30 or more screens throughout the country.

Another 22 per cent had only limited release, which means they were shown only in art-house cinemas or on a limited basis in the West End. Even more disturbing, almost half (46.4 per cent) were unreleased within a year of completion.

Will Stevenson explains: "People tend to talk about the film industry as a production industry. It is a distribution in-



Epic passion: Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas in *The English Patient*. Such successes are all too rare for an industry in which many films never see the light of day

dustry and always has been. But in Britain we don't have a distribution industry. What we have is a cottage industry struggling to turn itself somehow into a world force again."

The only sign of hope on the horizon is that a number of consortia bidding for the lottery franchises, designed to create mini studios in this country are proposing to combine production and distribution. The franchises are due to be awarded in mid-May.

Whatever the outcome, the BFI must recognise, in the words of its director, that "concentration on film production to the exclusion of distribution is foolhardy".

If they want their films to get wider distribution, British film-makers will also have to give them wider appeal.

The BFI has frequently

drawn attention to the growing tendency for British films to be aimed at an older, minority audience.

This contrasts markedly with the vast bulk of Hollywood product, which is pitched at teenagers and young adults, who are the most frequent cinema goers.

The only British film to have seriously bucked this trend was *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, which topped the British box office in 1994, grossing a whopping £27m.

Indeed, this was one of just two UK films to recoup its production costs entirely from UK box office sales. It earned 13 times what it cost to make in this country alone. And it took \$53m in the US, where the people who dominate world cinema were all too delighted to distribute it.

David Lister

It is not just the success of *The English Patient* that is the talk of Hollywood today. The Oscars have given movie buffs a host of new heroes, stars who will now command multi-million dollar salaries although they were virtually unknown a year ago.

Geoffrey Rush, the Australian actor who played the pianist David Helfgott in *Shine*, will now be wooed by the Hollywood studios previously unaware of his existence.

And a new breed of actress could at last grace Hollywood

movies following the triumph of Frances McDormand whose delightfully whimsical performance as the pregnant police chief in the comedy thriller *Fargo* won her best actress, beating off British opposition from Kristin Scott Thomas, Brenda Blethyn and Emily Watson.

Leading British film producer David Parfitt commented yesterday that one outcome of this year's Oscars would be to make Hollywood studios more daring. Interesting actresses such as McDormand and Blethyn – far from the typical Beverly Hills glamourpusses – will make the studios choose less bland fare, he predicted.

The principal award winners

at the Oscars were: best film *The English Patient*; best director Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*); best actor Geoffrey Rush (*Shine*); best actress Frances McDormand (*Fargo*); best supporting actor Cuba Gooding Jr (*Jerry Maguire*); best supporting actress Juliette Binoche (*The English Patient*).

There was British success for Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice for best original song for "You Must Love Me" in *Evita*, and for Rachel Portman for best original musical or comedy score for *Emma* – the first time a female composer had even been nominated.

British producer Eric Abraham also set a precedent by win-

ning an Oscar for best foreign language film with *Koba*, a low-budget Czech film. The biggest British disappointment was Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies* which failed to win any award despite five nominations. Lauren Bacall failed to make best supporting actress category, but there were cheers for younger old favourite, Muhammad Ali. When *Boyz n the City* won his 1974 fight with George Foreman, won best documentary feature.

Best original screenplay went to Ethan and Joel Coen for *Fargo*; screenplay adaptation to Billy Bob Thornton for *Sling Blade*; and visual effects to *Independence Day*.

Judge courts legal fury by jailing 'no verdict' jurors

Patricia Wynne Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

A judge who controversially jailed two women jurors for failing to reach a verdict mounted an outspoken defence of his actions last night, saying juries must recognise their responsibilities if the criminal justice system is to be upheld.

In what is believed to be the first decision of its kind in more than three centuries, Judge Aurora Cooray split legal opin-

ion after he sentenced Bonnie Schot, 20, and Carol Barclay, 32, to 30 days for contempt of court on Monday after they cited "personal reasons" for not participating in the jury's deliberations in a counterfeit currency trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court in London.

The £100,000 17-day prosecution against five defendants, followed by a four-hour summing up, had to be abandoned and a new one ordered at an additional cost of £150,000.

Ms Schot, the jury foreman, who had been planning to study law, later said from Holloway jail: "There wasn't enough evidence for me to reach a decision... I just didn't understand it."

As penal groups castigated what they said was an indefensible use of imprisonment, the 61-year-old judge became the latest judicial figure to resort to issuing a statement through the Lord Chancellor's Department, to defend his actions.

The pair were freed on bail yesterday, pending an appeal. Asked outside prison what she thought of the judge, Ms Schot said: "He's a very spiteful and vindictive man."

Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, warned: "If jurors who genuinely do not understand the evidence in a complicated trial are pressured into bringing in a verdict, this is likely to produce unjust convictions or wrongful acquittals."

"This unreasonably harsh action can only discourage people from serving as jurors."

It took "moral courage" for a juror to admit he or she did not understand the evidence rather than going along with the prevailing view in the jury room, he added.

People with personal or other difficulties, as the judge made clear in this case, are allowed under the regulations to make these known to the court at the time the jury is selected.

Judges generally look on such representations sympathetically in the interests of convening a jury that will stay the course.

Leroy Redhead, the barrister representing the two women, said Ms Barclay had told the court she could not ethically judge anyone and find them guilty or not guilty, despite having sworn to reach a verdict according to the evidence at the start of the trial.

The judge said in his statement that the jury "knew full

well that they had ample means available to them to inform the court immediately if they were confronted with any difficulties". He added "I was satisfied that [the women's] refusal to participate in the jury's deliberations constituted a clear contempt of court."

Not all commentators condemned Judge Cooray. A spokesman for the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, said: "The jury system is a vital part of our system of justice. If

you do go on a jury, you have responsibilities which shouldn't be taken lightly. Simply opting out is not acceptable."

The controversy comes when the jury system is already under fire for its alleged inability to cope with complicated fraud cases and for its expense.

If it were re-elected, a Conservative government would take steps to remove thousands of cases from the system altogether and have them heard summarily by magistrates.

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of Scottish Amicable to the Prudential will take place in November. If approved, the proposal will be implemented.

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Scottish Amicable

election countdown

Tories raise spectre of trade unions

Barrie Clement and
Fran Abrams

The Conservatives yesterday played the trade-union "card" for the first time in the election battle, denouncing Labour plans for legislation on recognition as a recipe for industrial blackmail.

Tories cancelled a planned statement on school tests by Gillian Shephard in order to make way for an attack by Michael Heseltine on the dangers of increased union power under Labour. A report in yesterday's *Daily Mail* claiming to have discovered a union "hit-list" of 63 employers prompted the sudden switch of electoral tactics. The list purported to reveal the names of employers which would be "dragged" into recognising unions if Tony Blair came to power. Labour plans to impose compulsory recognition where more than

half of a workforce vote for it. The *Mail's* "revelation" led to fresh expressions of concern by employers about the policy and a cock fight between Mr Heseltine and Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor.

It also exposed a serious lack of detail in Labour's policy. The deputy prime minister accused the Opposition of changing its policy three times yesterday morning. Earlier Mr Heseltine told journalists it had been a long battle to curb unions since the Winter of Discontent in 1979. "A Labour government could blow it. The evidence stares us in the face. Today a shocking revelation: a list of 63 British companies that have been targeted as the first victims of Tony Blair's pay-back to the union bosses."

He said companies would become battlegrounds in which different unions would fight out historic rivalries. "It would

be yesterday's demarcation disputes run riot," he said.

Mr Heseltine said Labour's plans would license industrial blackmail by groups of workers who could disrupt the whole supply chain. The "hit-list" seen by the *Mail* was prepared by the union-backed Labour Research Department for the TUC and was published last week. It is part of a six-month survey of workplaces where unions are seeking recognition. The *Mail* chose to call it a hit-list drawn up in preparation for new legislation. In fact officials in most unions will have in mind hundreds of companies where recognition could be achieved using the legislation.

It became clear yesterday that Labour's plans were by no means fully formed. Spin-doctors ventured that the Central Arbitration Committee could be used to rule in disputes between unions and employers of what constituted 50 per cent of the workforce. Mr Brown suggested it might be a judge. There has been doubt as to whether entire firms or units within firms would be considered. Mr Brown said: "A recognised unit would be something that would have to be agreed not simply by the unions saying that would be the case but agreed usually by employers and employees themselves. But if there were not then by a third party."

He quoted President Ronald Reagan as someone who had endorsed a more prescriptive system in the US. The shadow chancellor said he did not believe there would be very many disputes over recognition. Out of the top 50 companies, 44 already recognised unions.

He would not give examples of workplaces ripe for recognition. In almost all cases deals would be struck as a result of voluntary agreement.

Mr Brown said he would be issuing a point-by-point rebuttal of the *Daily Mail* story.

Unions said the Conservatives were guilty of "hysteria" and "McCarthyism". They preferred to call the "hit-list" a roll-call of exploited workers, where employees could not raise problems of low pay or health and safety issues.



John Redwood campaigning in Wolverhampton yesterday

Photograph: Mike Scott/Newstream

Redwood breaks colour bar

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

A senior right-wing Tory MP yesterday defied the Prime Minister's appeal to keep race out of the general election campaign by raising the immigration issue in the Wolverhampton seat where Enoch Powell made his "rivers of blood" speech.

Nicholas Budgen, the Powellite Tory MP for Wolverhampton South West, told a press conference in his constituency office that immigration was an election issue in his seat, whether the Tory high command liked it or not.

John Redwood, who travelled from his seat in Woking, Surrey, to give his backing to Mr Budgen, a fellow Euro-sceptic, also toured the constituency in a clear attempt to display leadership qualities. Mr Redwood insisted it was right for Mr Budgen to challenge Labour over its immigration policy.

An hour earlier, as he toured

a multi-racial school 20 miles away in Birmingham, John Major stood by firm immigration controls but said he did not want immigration to be raised as a partisan issue in the election.

"What I am not prepared to see is this issue raised as a partisan political issue because we have seen the most immense improvements in race relations in this country. I intend these improvements should continue."

Mr Budgen said he had always watched immigration, as a local issue, as Mr Major, as the MP for Huntingdon, had to watch the price of wheat. "I thought these silly [Labour] proposals for liberalising immigration controls had been forgotten. It was not until I read it in *The Independent* I thought this is something that needs to be investigated."

Mr Budgen told a joint press conference with Mr Redwood in his constituency offices: "The position in Wolverhampton and

the West Midlands is that whole areas have been transformed by immigration. The whole population, white, black and Asian, fully understands the necessity of strict immigration controls as the principle means of the continuance of good race relations."

"If there is to be an attempt to carry favour with Asian organisations by relaxing immigration controls, it becomes an issue. However much the leaders of the Tory party may say they would rather it was not discussed, the issue is whether the people particularly in affected areas like Wolverhampton want it discussed. What is an election issue is not decided by the politicians."

He said Mr Powell had painted the future in "terrors which turned out to be excessively dramatic... We haven't had the rivers of blood because we have had strict immigration control". Prompted by Mr Redwood,

Mr Budgen added: "I am not predicting a future rivers of blood. I am saying that race relations have much improved and we want to ensure they continue to do so."

Mr Redwood said it was perfectly reasonable for Conservative candidates, where it was a matter of interest, to cross-examine Labour about its plans for not implementing the "primary purpose rule" allowing immigrants to bring in their families.

Mr Redwood accused Labour of making it an issue by proposing the changes to the immigration controls.

He added: "I would rather it wasn't... I think it would be much better if it was not a partisan issue."

That is why I am very pleased my party did not raise it, did not take to the electorate proposals for making changes in the immigration policies of this country... Labour have made it an issue."

Major draws line on Europe

Colin Brown and
Anthony Bevis

John Major yesterday ruled out any hardening of the Tories' "wait-and-see" approach to the single European currency before polling day and made it more difficult for the Tories to play the Euro-sceptic card in an attempt to pull off a general election comp against Tony Blair.

Mr Major warned that the pound would rise in value, damaging Britain's exports, if Britain at this stage opted out of a single European currency. His remarks will dismay some Tory Euro-sceptics who believe their campaign to "save the pound" is the only way to save the party from defeat by Labour.

John Redwood, whose book attacking the single currency will be published today, was campaigning yesterday with a leading Euro-sceptic, Nicholas Budgen, in Wolverhampton, only 20 miles from the Prime Minister, and rejected his stance.

Mr Redwood, a former Secretary of State for Wales and the past challenger for his leadership, said: "I am in a different position. I am a backbencher, wishing to help public debate in trying to persuade the Government - when it makes up its mind finally, it makes up its mind by saying no."

Mr Major, campaigning in Birmingham, said: "What we have made clear is we will be there negotiating the single currency to protect Britain's interests. No British prime minister can properly opt out of those negotiations and be in a position to protect British interests. I will be there negotiating on that."

He said that if a weak euro was created, countries putting their money into Europe would target the two remaining strong currencies, the Swiss franc and sterling. "That would put up the exchange rate of sterling."

At Labour's London press conference, the shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, said Mr Major would become the prisoner of Tory Euro-sceptics if another Conservative government was elected on 1 May.

Publishing a list of 132 Conservative MPs and candidates who are defying the party line on Europe, he said: "A re-elected Conservative Party would be unrecognisable and, in the words of the Chancellor himself, would be incapable of being led."

Panic stations in Smith Square

Fran Abrams

The Conservative campaign team threw away its script yesterday, in a move which made the party's media strategy appear increasingly panicked.

For the second time this week, an impromptu press conference was thrown at Central Office to make capital out of newspaper stories which were damaging to Labour.

With Labour's rapid-rebuttal machine geared up to respond within an hour to any Conservative statement, the party is trying to tighten up its act. But Labour's campaign organiser, Brian Wilson, accused the Tories of behaving "like drowning men".

An announcement by Gillian Shephard on school tests, billed for yesterday's morning press conference, was dropped for an attack by Michael Heseltine on Labour plans for trade union recognition, prompted by a report in the *Daily Mail*. Although

Mrs Shephard appeared at Central Office, her plans for more tests for 14-year-olds were relegated to the fax machine.

On Monday, *The Independent's* revelation that Labour was planning hospital closures was followed belatedly by an afternoon press conference, hosted by the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell.

Although the Conservatives denied they had been forced to change strategy, the sharpness of Labour's machinery has left them feeling exposed.

When *The Independent* published its story in Monday's paper, Labour health spokesman Chris Smith was on the phone to its newsdesk before 1am with a denial. Yesterday's Conservative change of schedule had brought a response from the shadow education secretary, David Blunkett in ample time for lunchtime broadcasts. A Conservative spokesman denied that the change of plan revealed any lack of coherence.

Labour plan for welfare reform

Anthony Bevis
Political Editor

Labour will increase the share of national income spent on education, and reduce the share spent on unemployment, reversing the trend of the Tory years, Gordon Brown said yesterday.

Commenting on yesterday's *Independent* report on deep cuts in the Education and Employment budget, the shadow Chancellor told a Labour press conference it was true that Government spending on training and employment was being cut. "It's been cut by 36 per cent since 1991-92," he said.

But Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, told a Conservative press conference: "I fear *The Independent* has got it totally wrong."

"In the first place, it is of course a matter of public record that we have reduced the amount of money we are spending on unemployed people, because the number of unemployed people has reduced."

"The one follows the other, except, of course with the Labour Party. I recall that Gordon Brown in November 1995 said the Labour Party would spend £3bn, the eleventh time it has been spent, to get 250,000 people back into work. Since then, we have put \$15,000 people back into work without a £3bn tax, which is obviously a chimera."

Mr Brown said: "Training, as

well as employment measures, are now suffering. It is indeed one of the reasons why our windfall levy is absolutely essential: to tackle the problem of youth and long-term unemployment and training."

"We've got this amazing situation that the figures this morning in *The Independent* highlight, where unemployment now costs this Government more than education."

"You cannot continue as a civilised society, with the hopes for the younger generation being fulfilled, if you are spending more on the problem of failure, that is the costs of unemployment, than you're spending on investment in your future, and that is education."

"So that is why it will be stated quite specifically in our manifesto, that we will reverse the trend of the Conservative years,

where more is spent on welfare than education."

"We want the expenditure on education, as a share of national income, to rise while the expenditure on the income-related benefits for unemployment actually falls."

Mr Brown said the Conservative Government had failed, and Labour wanted to succeed, and in doing so would launch a reform of the welfare state.

Ugly rumours, purple loons, but drugs? Never

Steve Boggan

He wore purple loons and cowboy boots - he even sang in a band called Ugly Rumours - but unlike his wishy-washy counterpart in America, Tony Blair was never tempted to try drugs.

During his campaign to become President, Bill Clinton admitted to taking a puff of wacky baccy, an admission that became even wackier when he claimed that he didn't inhale.

But there were no such half-measures for Mr Blair. Yesterday, he categorically stated that, despite leading a somewhat Bohemian existence as an undergraduate at Oxford, he had never tried drugs. During questioning at a school in Aberdeen where he announced Labour's proposals for a "drug tsar", a high-powered official with responsibility for co-ordinating the fight against Britain's growing drug problem, he answered the question many had secretly been asking: Was there anyone during the early Seventies who had said no to blow?

Yes there was - Mr Blair. Asked whether he personally had taken drugs, he replied firmly: "No," and said he had

warned his own children about the risks of taking them.

The Labour leader was firm on establishing his anti-drug credentials before launching into his new proposals based on the American post of director of the office of national drug policy, or drug tsar for short, a man in charge of an \$18bn (£11bn) war chest. "I believe we need to appoint a figurehead in the battle against drugs - someone who will both lead the fight against drugs and help educate young people not to take them," he said after meeting pupils in an anti-drugs class at the Dyce Academy.

"The appointment of such a figure would signal the determination of the Government that it was not prepared to tolerate the waste of young lives. The drug tsar will have direct access to Government," he said. "This appointment will be a clear manifesto commitment. It will be a valuable added weapon against one of the great evils of our time."

Despite referring to the office as an American innovation, officials representing the American drug tsar, General Barry McCaffrey, said they had not co-

ordinated with Mr Blair's team. Don Maple, General McCaffrey's spokesman, said: "They haven't contacted us as far as I'm aware... but I wish you luck." Mr Maple did not wish to gauge the impact the establishment of a drug tsar could have in the UK, but since its creation in America in 1988, the number of drug abusers had fallen from 24m to 12m, he said.

Mr Blair's initiative coincided with a call from a committee of the Church of Scotland for the legalisation of cannabis to be considered. The Board of Social Responsibility said yesterday that it wants a Royal Commission to be set up to look at legalisation.

Its convenor, the Rev Bill Wallace, said: "We are, in effect, saying look before you ever consider leaping into the unknown. The experience of legalising alcohol and tobacco would indicate such a change would be well nigh irreversible."

The call came following a survey of more than 2,500 pupils in Scottish secondary schools which found that half had experimented with drugs and a quarter were still using them.

Leading article, page 19

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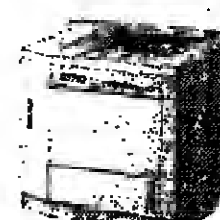
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election countdown

Wobbly Tories recall creative guru

Paul McCann
on how Charles
Saatchi is now
writing the
slogan for a
new poster

The Conservative Party is re-living its famous "wobbly Thursday" in the run-up to the 1997 general election after a crisis over its advertising campaign.

The party has called in Charles Saatchi, the reclusive creative guru of the Saatchi brothers, to write his first slogan for the latest poster campaign launched this week.

"Britain is Booming Don't let Labour Blow It," sources close to the party's advertising agency admit that previous posters in this campaign have not been effective because of a lack of focus, so it is returning to a tried and tested formula.

After a rogue poll in the week before the 1987 election, Margaret Thatcher called in adviser Sir Tim Bell and Frank Lowe, of Lowe-Howard Spink, over the head of Saatchi and Saatchi to create the slogan "Life's Better with the Conservatives - Don't let Labour Ruin It" which was used in a massive £2.5m newspaper campaign for the last week of the election.

Although this week's new poster was created by Charles Saatchi, sources close to the party suggest that by harking back to the 1987 strategy, it proves that Sir Tim Bell is in charge of the Tory campaign again.

"It is a proven strategy and is an effective piece of communication - as the 1987 election clearly showed," said John Banks, managing director of advertising agency Banks Hoggins O'Shea, who acted as an adviser to the 1987 campaign.

There was a falling out between party chairman Brian Mawhinney and the team advising him on advertising - Sir Tim Bell, Lord Saatchi and Lord Chadlington (formerly Peter Gummer) - two weeks ago about the merits of the weeping lion and family crying a red tears posters. Polling had shown that both campaigns were unpopular and unconvincing. That prompted a re-



Out of the shadows: Backroom staff checking final details before yesterday's press conference at Conservative Central Office in Smith Square

Photograph: Brian Harris

think on advertising and the first pre-testing of posters with focus groups.

However, even the pre-tested "Tony & Bill" poster has been condemned as confusing. "This is the least defaced poster they have had," said a poster industry insider. "It seems to be because no one can work out if it's actually for or against Labour."

The new poster has a clearer message. "It looks like they have started on to the right area at last," said a senior Labour Party source. "But it is too late."

The Labour Party's agency, BMP DDB, is understood to be holding back its major advertising thrust until after Easter.

Only the Tories' "demo eyes" advertisement has so far attracted much attention.

"The party is bankrupt of ideas and it would seem its advertising agency is as well," said Gerry Moira, creative director of rival advertising agency Publicis.

Both campaigns' advertising have been disappointing and unfocused. No one's imagination has been captured, we've just been berated and threatened."

The party's newest advertising also borrows from a Courage beer poster - also created by M&C Saatchi - which used the colours red and blue to make a series of two-pronged attacks on northern ale.

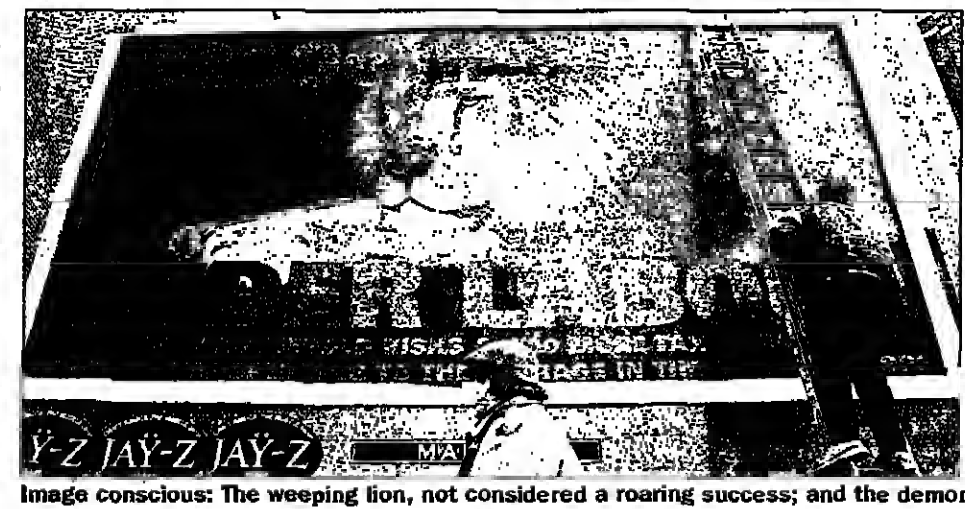


Image conscious: The weeping lion, not considered a roaring success; and the demon eyes poster, which at least generated publicity

Fight on 'clean' council ticket

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

Anti-corruption campaigners in Doncaster are to sponsor a candidate in the election to campaign for the clean-up of the council, where several councillors are under investigation by the police. Neil Swan, a former Doncaster councillor, is standing on an "Against Corruption on Doncaster Council" (ACDC) in the Doncaster North constituency field by Kevin Hughes, a former miner and junior Labour whip, with a majority of 19,813.

While he has raised his deposit from local sources, Mr Swan is seeking sponsorship. The campaign launched yesterday by the People's Trust, the anti-corruption campaign announced it was spending £1m donated by Mohamed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods.

Mr Swan's candidacy will draw more attention to the troubled Labour stronghold, where the council has been the subject of a district auditor's report criticising the lack of control over foreign trips and extravagant "working lunches".

The auditor has referred the matter to the South Yorkshire police, who are conducting a wide-ranging investigation into the affair and have interviewed a number of councillors.

Canvass call shocks hanged man's niece

Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

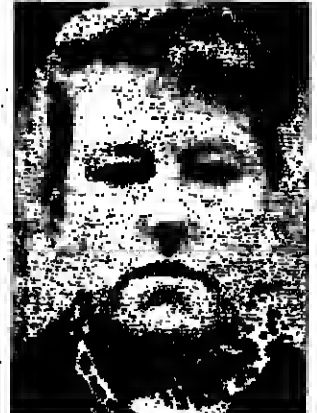
The niece of Derek Bentley, who was hanged in 1953 for the murder of a policeman, has been asked by the Tory party whether she supports capital punishment.

Maria Dingwall, the daughter of Bentley's sister, Iris, who died last January, has been campaigning for a pardon for her uncle and for his case to be referred to the Court of Appeal. She is vehemently opposed to capital punishment.

She was asked her views on hanging by a Conservative Party worker while waiting to hear about her mother who had just undergone an operation. Iris Bentley, 65, died from cancer days later without knowing whether her brother had been pardoned.

Maria Dingwall, 34, said: "I just couldn't believe they were asking me. I told them I was Derek Bentley's niece and they didn't say anything. I felt quiet shocked."

Derek Bentley was hanged after being convicted of taking part in the murder of PC Sidney Miles in 1952 during a bungled burglary in south London. Christopher Craig, 16, his accomplice, fired the shot that killed the policeman, but officers claimed that Bentley had called out "Let him have it."



Maria Dingwall, left, who is for her uncle, Derek Bentley, campaigning for a pardon



hanged for murder in 1953

Chris Bentley insisted that the police concocted the phrase. The jury recommended mercy for Bentley, an epileptic with a mental age of around 11, but despite this he was hanged in Wandsworth prison, aged 19.

His niece, who is a Labour councillor, was telephoned in January by someone who said they were ringing from Conservative Party Central Office on behalf of Dame Angela Rumbold, a vice-chair of the Tory Party, and MP for Middlesbrough and MP for Middlesbrough.

She was asked whether law and order was a key election issue. "When I replied that it was the first question they asked me was whether I was in favour of capital punishment. I couldn't believe they were asking me that question, it seemed so insensitive."

A spokeswoman for the Conservative Party said: "It was a mistake. We took the name from the electoral register."

It was also disclosed yesterday that solicitors acting for the Bentley family are to submit new evidence to the Criminal Cases Review Commission which they claim will show it was a miscarriage of justice.

The new evidence includes statements from witnesses and those involved in the trial casting doubt on police testimony.

New test for 14-year-old pupils

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

Fourteen year-olds will be tested in 10 different subjects if the Conservatives win the election, Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education announced yesterday.

In a statement faxed to journalists from Conservative Central Office, Mrs Shephard said the existing tests in English, Maths and Science would be supplemented by an exam covering seven more subjects.

The new test would cover all the compulsory subjects in the curriculum, she said, and pupils would be rewarded with a new Certificate of Education which

would form a major part of their school achievement records. The new certificate will extend compulsory testing at 14 to technology, history, geography, art, music, physical education and modern foreign languages.

It will be recorded on each pupil's National Record of Achievement, a new report on progress at school which will note exam results along with other successes, such as being a prefect or having a good attendance record.

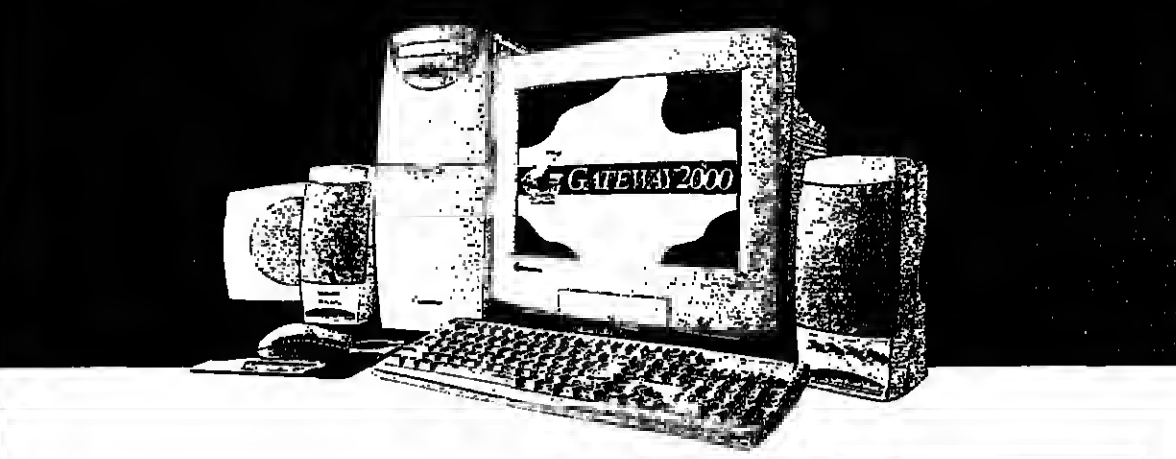
Mrs Shephard said the test would help to guide pupils' choices after 14 on which GCSEs or vocational qualifications they should take. It would also reinforce the importance of

all subjects in the curriculum and the need for them to be well taught, she said.

"Above all... this will emphasise Conservative concern for the achievements of every pupil and the importance of every educational route to success. These measures will encourage all pupils to achieve excellence," she said.

The announcement was attacked by teachers' unions, but brought an equivocal response from Labour, which said its priorities were the basic skills of literacy and numeracy. However, party sources said, testing at 14 would be considered as part of a full review planned for the millennium.

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election countdown

Plaid Cymru intensifies its focus on devolution for Wales as it launches its campaign for 40 seats

Party pins its hopes on tide turning

Tony Heath

Plaid Cymru's focus on devolution was intensified yesterday with a vitriolic attack on Labour when the nationalist party launched its campaign at Cardiff Castle.

The party leader, Dafydd Wigley, who sits on a majority of 14,476 in Caernarfon, Gwynedd, was seen on the offensive: "There is a tide of anger running against Labour's devolution proposals. We're not looking to an assembly as an institution just to make us feel better. It must have real power."

Barring the Conservatives, all parties are committed in some degree to the desirability of shifting power from London to Cardiff. But Labour's proposed referendum - and its wording - is crucial to nationalist aspirations.

Mr Wigley wants a four-part referendum - covering the status quo, Labour's plan, an assembly with law-making powers, and full self-government within five years.

"A 'yes' or 'no' referendum would be a waste of time. When we see what's on offer we will

call a special conference to decide our stance," he said. Opponents point out that a four-option ballot paper could lead to an indecisive result and that the option of the status quo would invite a bored electorate to play safe.

The party has yet to recruit a force strong enough to break out from its fastness in rural Welsh-speaking Wales. Attempts to make headway in the heavily populated south have failed, despite some heroic efforts. The low point of the 1991 Monmouth by-election when Screaming Lord Sutch won 314 votes to Plaid's 277 is unlikely to be repeated, but the outlook is cloudy.

The nationalists won four seats in 1992 against Labour's twenty-seven, the Conservatives' six and the Liberal Democrats' one.

A recent survey by National Opinion Polls and HTV put Labour support at 60 per cent, with the Tories on 19 per cent, Plaid on 12 per cent, the Liberal Democrats on 7 per cent and others on 2 per cent. Plaid can take some consolation from Wales's 22 council chambers where it has 113 representatives

to the Conservatives' 41 - and Labour's 731.

Tory support in Wales seems to be going into free fall. Early evidence of nationalist pick-up came at the 1994 Euro elections when the party polled 162,478 votes to the Tories 138,323. But however good that news was for Plaid, the bad news for the party is that in racing terms Labour won that contest by a distance when it triumphed in all five Euro seats with 530,749 votes.

Mr Wigley remains optimistic: "We are poised to become the main opposition to Labour," he predicted as his troops filed from the castle. But the uneven spread of support remains a stumbling block. Last time round in the eight most urban seats - four in Cardiff and two each in Newport and Swansea - only 8,251 voted for Plaid Cymru. In all, 30 deposits were lost. Two Plaid seats look safe - Caernarfon and Meirionnydd Nant Conwy. In Ynys Mon, the Conservative candidate was just over 1,000 votes adrift in 1992 and the Liberal Democrats are anxious to retake Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire North which went to Plaid five years ago.



Recruiting force: Dafydd Wigley (centre right) with members of Plaid Cymru carrying the national flag in Cardiff yesterday Photograph: Rob Stratton

Not everyone in Wales gives devolution the highest priority. The National Health Service, education and the economic plight of the old south Wales mining valleys figure high on the agenda.

A bitter row over proposals

to close hospitals in rural mid-Wales, the continuing unease over the power of quangos which control around £2bn of Wales's annual spend, and the state of cash-starved schools are grabbing headlines west of Offa's Dyke.

One of Wales's leading political analysts, Denis Bellom, confirms this: "Devolution is important but I can't help pointing out that the emphasis has something to do with the anti-government feeling," he said. The nationalists are pledged

to fight all 40 Welsh seats - boundary changes have added 2 to the 38 contested in 1992. The party makes its top priority Carmarthen East and Dyfed, where boundary revisions will test its mettle. Another castle, Carreg Cennen, dominates the latter constituency, but compared with Cardiff's Roman connection it is a youngster of some 800 years old, and probably less likely to fall than Caernarfon's Edward I seat which towers over Mr Wigley's stronghold.

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Dixons

There's a great deal going on

History of Welsh nationalism

Plaid Cymru is firmly rooted in the Welsh language and culture. Today, the ancient tongue is spoken by 500,000 of Wales's 2.6 million people. The party was founded in 1925 largely to challenge the idea of British rule in Wales and reverse the assimilation of Welsh by English. Wales briefly suffered freedom from the English in 1404. Plaid hopes for a permanent Welsh state. Nationalism gained momentum in 1931 when the then Plaid leader, Saunders Lewis, and two colleagues set fire to a Royal Air Force camp on the Llyn Peninsula in protest at the threat to the Welsh language.

Gwynfor Evans became the first Plaid MP when he won a spectacular by-election at Carmarthen on 14 July 1966.

The party has four MPs - Dafydd Wigley, party president, who holds Caernarfon with a 14,476 majority; Iwan Wyn Jones; Ynys Mon, with 1,106; Elyn Llwyd, Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, 3,618 majority; Cynog Dafis, Ceredigion and Gwynedd, 3,193.

Nationalist peer Lord Elis-Thomas (formerly Dafydd Elis-Thomas, MP), a one-time Marxist, sits on the Lords cross-bench and chairs the Welsh Language Board, known as "the quantum in the next century". The party has an ambivalent relationship with the Welsh Language Society which several leading members belong.

The nationalist cause was not helped by the activities of the clandestine arsonists Meibion Glyndwr (Welsh for Sons of Glendower) in the 1980s when more than 200 holiday homes in Wales were set alight. Plaid explicitly condemns these fire-raiders. Plaid Cymru firmly supports nuclear disarmament.

Scotland's safest seat seeks heir apparent

Stephen Goodwin

The tragic-comedy of Allan Stewart's resignation from the safest Tory seat in Scotland could well end in a return to Parliament for Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party.

Sir Michael, a 51-year-old company director, is the clear front-runner after it was confirmed by the party yesterday that Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, would not abandon his marginal Stirling constituency for the Eastwood safe haven - a predominantly middle-class dormitory to the south of Glasgow.

Mr Stewart's resignation late on Monday evening left Scottish Tories temporarily stunned and delivered a jolt to John Major just hours after he had at last taken the election initiative over the economy.

Mr Stewart's decision followed weekend press reports linking him with a 47-year-old married woman he met last year at a clinic for treating alcohol problems. Catherine "Bunny" White, who has four children,



Stepping down: Stewart's resignation stunned Tories

his parliamentary colleagues quickly gave way to speculation over a successor. Mr Stewart had the highest Conservative majority in Scotland in the 1992 election - a comfortable 11,668 votes.

Constituency officials described as "preposterous" a suggestion that Mr Forsyth might try and switch to Eastwood. A swing of only 0.3 per cent to Labour would deprive the Secretary of his Stirling seat.

Two other Cabinet ministers, Malcolm Rifkind and Ian Lang, also face tough battles, but party officials in Edinburgh said they did not expect any sitting MP to apply for Eastwood.

In a succession of interviews yesterday, Sir Michael repeatedly avoided ruling himself out - other than a frank admission that if the constituency association wanted "a bright young thing" then he was not in the running.

If Sir Michael was selected, however, it would leave the Tories with a further headache, since as party chairman he is responsible for co-ordinating the election campaign in Scotland.

Propaganda campaign to stop people voting

Kim Sengupta

An extensive propaganda campaign is being carried out by extremist political groups to stop people from voting in the general election. Thousands of pamphlets and leaflets have been distributed across the country attacking the main parties, and with the insistent message that nothing can be changed through the ballot box.

The posters are abusive, one has photos of Tony Blair, John Major, and Paddy Ashdown with the headline "wankers", while another urged "Vote Blair for another Tory government."

The "wankers" poster is produced by the Committee of Public Safety. The one accusing Tony Blair of heralding another Tory government is being distributed by the Anti-Election Alliance.

ALL POLITICIANS ARE GREEDY LYING SCUM
VOTING CHANGES NOTHING

One of the campaign stickers with its anti-voting message

But following the few clues on the material tend to lead towards a much more familiar name from the annals of British anarchism, Class War.

The Committee of Public Safety gives a box number in Colston Street, Bristol. But a tawdry through left-wing agit-prop groups as well as police sources led to the consensus that the committee is almost certainly Class War. Bristol is the headquarters of the group.

The Anti-Election Alliance's box number leads back to 27 Old Gloucester Street, in Covent Garden, central London. The address houses a telephone message box, as well as box number for a variety of fringe political groups including the Revolutionary Communist Party and the Revolutionary Conservative Caucus.

A series of messages left for Class War eventually led to a call from a man named Dave, who said he represented the organisation. He claimed the politicians "are taking the public for a ride" and claimed the election was a pointless, expensive exercise.

At 27 Old Gloucester Street, Bruno Waterfield, of the Revolutionary Communist Party stated it was certainly opposed to the election, but was not aware the Anti-Election Alliance was part of the RCP.

Army in the glasshouse over racial bias

Christopher Bellamy
Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence yesterday received a final warning to show real commitment to racial equality or face legal action.

The Commission for Racial Equality said that not enough progress had been made in overcoming blatant racial discrimination in the Army since the MoD signed an agreement with them in March last year.

Yesterday it said it was not satisfied with progress and gave the Army another year to put matters right. If the Army does not do so the CRE will issue a non-discrimination notice requiring the MoD to take specific actions or to take to court.

The CRE cited the report from the Office of Public Management, released last week, which gave more disturbing evidence of the "perverse, long-running and deeply entrenched problems of racism within the armed services." The commission was particularly concerned that the MoD had that report for six months - from last September - before it was released.



Solitary figure: Mark Campbell, the first black soldier to join the Sovereign's escort of the Household Cavalry, which a study found was particularly short of non-white soldiers

and that it should have been implementing the action plan which it had agreed with the CRE during that time. "We all know there are few black soldiers in the Army. What we want to know is what they are doing about it," said Chris Myant, a CRE spokesman.

About 1 per cent of the armed forces comes from ethnic minorities compared with about 6 per cent of the workforce as a whole. The Army has slightly more non-white soldiers than the Navy has sailors. But the small number of non-white service men and women

is compounded by instances of blatant racial harassment and abuse. The Office of Public Management report found that some senior officers still condoned these practices.

The action plan agreed last March stipulates two types of activity. The first is monitoring

to establish how many non-white people there are in the forces and their career patterns. The second requires the MoD to come up with workable ways of solving the problem.

When the MoD agreed to implement the plan the CRE said it would withhold a non-dis-

crimination notice for a year and would then abandon it all together if the Army achieved adequate progress. It has not done so, the CRE said, "primarily in the areas which give a measure of the level of commitment and willingness to change attitudes and practice".

A year on, the commissioners yesterday deferred a decision on the use of a non-discrimination notice for a further year with a six-month progress review in September.

The action plan was launched last year after a study found the Household Cavalry was partic-

ularly short of non-white soldiers, although the problem runs throughout the Army.

Yesterday's report said the Commander of the Household Cavalry had issued a directive and a new recruitment leaflet which, it said, "provide the necessary foundation for equal opportunities in the Household Cavalry." The report also noted progress in encouraging non-white candidates to apply to become officers; the introduction of good systems for collecting ethnic origin information on applicants to join the forces and numerous written instructions and orders.

However, the commissioners reminded the Army that monitoring is only a first step.

A chastened MoD responded yesterday saying: "We are pleased to note that the CRE have recognised the progress that we have made in several areas of race relations and ethnic monitoring."

"We are however disappointed that the CRE has not seen fit to lift the possibility of a non-discrimination notice and we are considering carefully all the comments they have made."

... but Marines stay men-only

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

The Royal Marines are to retain their men-only policy for front-line troops for the time being after an industrial tribunal upheld their right to turn down a job application from a woman chef.

But the tribunal asked the European Court of Justice to rule on the legitimacy of British law which allows the armed forces to reject women for some postings on the grounds that they may undermine "combat effectiveness".

Angela Sirdar, an ex-army cook, was turned down because catering staff in the marines are expected to operate as commandos and the marines argue that a woman could not fulfil that role. Mrs Sirdar, 31, contended that the inter-operability principle was a fiction and that there were many marines who were not required to act as combat soldiers. The Equal Opportunities Commission, which backed her case, pro-

duced a male chef as a witness who was 20 stone in weight, who had failed eight physical examinations and who had been in the marines for 20 years.

However, the tribunal ruled against Mrs Sirdar saying that cooks were indeed expected to retain a primary function as front-line troops. Only members of marine bands are exempted.

The European Court will be expected to decide on whether the "get-out" clause in British law, which allows the armed forces to reject women, should be repealed. The tribunal will then re-examine whether it was lawful to apply the principle of inter-operability to all chiefs.

From today, a code of practice on pay issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission will be admissible as evidence in any proceedings under the Sex Discrimination Act. The code sets out methods which employers could use to review pay systems to ensure they are lawful and sets out means of identifying potential discrimination.

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news

Miracle of the fishes: How the food stores change frozen into 'fresh'

Ian Burrell

Fish which is being sold as "fresh" from the wet counters of supermarkets is often up to a fortnight old, according to new research.

Supermarkets are also confusing customers by freezing fish and defrosting it for sale on the fresh counter. The practice of "selling on the defrost" is becoming increasingly common among supermarkets, as trawlers from Britain's shrinking fishing fleet spend longer periods at sea to meet the growing public demand for fish.

Shoppers, who pay up to 40 per cent more for fish from the wet counter, are often unaware that the product was previously frozen and have no way of knowing when their "fresh" fish was caught. Some stores

said that rivals were failing to label defrosted fish.

The Fish Report, written by Jan Walsh, an independent consumer expert, was commissioned by Iceland Frozen Foods, which believes that fish sold as frozen has an unfair reputation for lack of taste and value. Its findings were "endorsed 100 per cent" at Steve Hatt, a leading fishmonger in Islington, north London. Steve Hatt junior, the shop manager, said his customers were normally eating their fish within three days of it being caught and that the huge supermarket operations could not possibly match the freshness of fish sold in traditional high street fishmongers.

John Wood, senior fish technologist at Marks & Spencer, told the report: "Some people are selling 'on the defrost',



Many supermarket wet counters are selling fish that are up to two weeks old as 'fresh'

which means the fish was frozen but has been defrosted and goes on the counter to be sold as fresh.

Consumer groups said yesterday that many people buying their traditional Good Friday fish were being misled. Tim Lobstein, director of the Food Commission, said: "It's hard to see how fish that has been defrosted is offering additional value over the frozen alternative. I'm not sure shoppers understand exactly what they're being offered in every case. Some supermarkets must be making

a huge profit from this practice."

Terry Thresh, owner of the Boyd Line fishing company in Hull, said: "When you see the words 'fresh fish' it's a misnomer. Plenty of trips take 21 days now. If boats go to the Barents Sea, just above Norway, it takes four or five days to get there which means the fish that returns will vary in age but the oldest can be 15 days old. It's kept on ice, just above freezing, and it's completely edible, but it's hardly fresh fish."

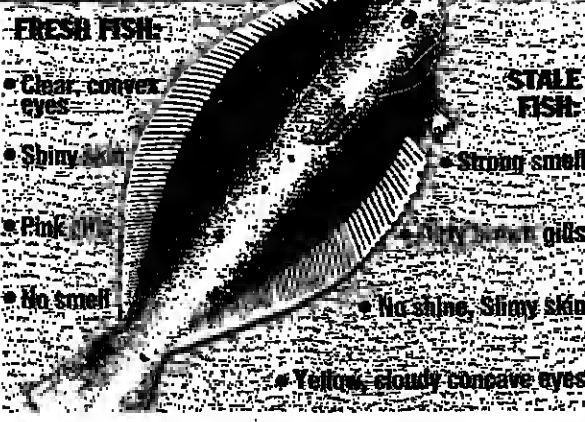
When the fish does finally arrive at the quayside the su-

permarket buyers cannot be sure when the fish was caught. Andrew Pepper, a buyer for Tesco, said: "There is no way of telling the exact age of the fish. We have to trust their word."

Harry Davis, of the government's Central Science Laboratory, called for tougher restrictions at quayside, which currently allow inspectors to ban two-week-old fish from sale.

He said: "I think that's too low and not good for the industry. In my view the inspection limit should be higher so that poor-quality fish is never sold."

The freshness test



Police call for curb on drivers' drug use

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

Tough new laws to punish motorists who take any form of illegal drug and drive were called for by police chiefs yesterday.

Chief constables want to introduce a "zero limit" for drug users who drive. Anyone caught could face a ban, fine or imprisonment. The police want the new offence to cover all illegal drugs, from cannabis to heroin.

The initiative, by the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), follows estimates that more than 100,000 motorists a year may be driving while under the influence of illegal drugs. There is growing concern about the danger such motorists present to themselves and other road users.

Paul Manning, secretary of the Acpo traffic committee, and Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police, speaking at a conference on drug-driving in Lincoln, said: "Many of the attitudes and beliefs prevalent in the Sixties, prior to the advent of the drink-drive legislation, are now being voiced in respect of drug-driving, the most worrying being that 'drug taking does not affect my ability to drive or make judgements'."

"The dangers of drug-driving will need to be brought home to drivers in a powerful way if the problem is to be addressed by self discipline."

The Acpo drugs committee has recommended a new offence that would remove the need to prove impairment - which is currently needed for a prosecution - of a driver under the influence of drugs.

Mr Manning said that a new law to make it an offence to drive with any detectable amount of illegal drug should be introduced. His committee and the Department of Transport are also searching for a roadside drugs kit that could be used to test motorists in a similar way as for alcohol. The DoT is already carrying out a three-year study to discover the number of drug-drivers on the road.

Mr Manning said that there could be more than 100,000 drug-driving cases a year, based on the findings of a Forensic Science Service study in 1995.

At the same conference the Royal Automobile Club reported that drivers taking sleeping tablets were four times more likely to have a road accident and that taking tranquillisers can double the risks.

The figures are based on Canadian studies and are the latest figures to support the RAC's campaign to warn of the dangers of drug-driving.

Churchman dies after paramilitary beating

David McKittrick
Ireland correspondent

A Belfast Presbyterian minister has died six weeks after suffering a savage "punishment beating" at the hands of loyalist paramilitants in the city.

The Rev David Templeton was attacked by three men armed with cudgels who broke into his north Belfast home on 7 February. He suffered two broken legs, a suspected fractured skull and puncture wounds in the incident. He had

appeared to be recovering but died in hospital on Monday night, possibly of a heart attack.

Although he had suffered previous health problems - he was the longest surviving kidney transplant recipient in Northern Ireland - police said his death

was a direct result of his injuries.

The motivation for the beating appears to relate to an incident 18 months ago when Mr Templeton was searched by customs officers as he returned from Amsterdam and was found to be carrying a porno-

graphic homosexual videotape. No charges were brought but he resigned as minister of Greyabbey Presbyterian church in Co Down and moved to north Belfast where he lived quietly.

He had a distinguished academic record. Originally a civil servant, he gained an Open University degree and masters degrees from Queen's University, Belfast and Princeton theological seminary in New Jersey.

His presumed homosexuality would have represented sufficient reason for a loyalist attack. His was the latest of perhaps half a dozen punishment attacks which were apparently designed to injure but which over the years have proved lethal. Such attacks have become almost a matter of routine in Belfast and elsewhere,

though they are rarely fatal. According to the RUC, there have been so far this year 25 loyalist beatings, 14 loyalist shootings, and 33 republican beatings and one shooting. Last year, loyalists carried out 150 beatings and shootings while republicans perpetrated 170 beatings - a rate of almost one assault per day.

Meanwhile, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has been criticised for announcing that the inquiry into the IRA escape attempt from the Maze prison is to be confined to the Northern Ireland Office.

Up to 95 hardline IRA inmates could have escaped had their tunnel not been detected some 90 feet from the prison's perimeter fence. The inquiry is to be headed by a senior NIO

official, John Steele, who was previously in charge of prisons.

Finlay Spratt, of the Prison Officers' Association, dismissed the inquiry as a whitewash, saying that while he did not question Mr Steele's integrity a full independent inquiry was needed. He added: "I don't think he is the right man for the job. He was the head of the Prison Service before Alan Shannon and some of the situation at the Maze emanates from when he was in control."

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, described the inquiry as a sham. "This is a feeble and fumbling attempt to con the public into believing that something is being done when in effect it is a recipe for ensuring nothing will be done."

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Drinks guide bitter over tasteless theme pubs



Themed out: Filthy McNastie's Irish-style pub in Islington, north London, is a popular haunt for the drink as well as good food. Photograph: David Rose

Chains blamed for poor food and low-quality service

Glenda Cooper
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Theme pubs are destroying an important way of traditional British life with low-quality food and drink and production-line decor, according to a new survey.

In a stinging attack, *The Which? Guide to Country Pubs* published today warns that some of Britain's most attractive pubs are suffering as a result when they are bought up by chains. In some cases food quality had gone downhill since the pubs were taken over and in some cases it was "utterly dire", the guide said.

"Typically, managers move into these pubs for a few weeks and then leave minions to take over with chefs who have no business using the title running the kitchen," said David Mabey, editor of the guide.

The guide also complained about bland and formulaic furnishings in such institutions. "It seems to be almost compulsory to cover walls in fake

collections and clutter culled from the pubfitters' curiosity shop," said Mr Mabey. "It is a sad character-stifling exercise that appears to be designed to rip the heart and soul out of any decent hostelry."

A spokesman for the Campaign for Real Ale (Cama) said that while there was room for different types of pubs in the market "the problem is when someone thinks of a good idea, such as the Irish concept, everyone jumps on the bandwagon and there can be three or four of the same kind in the high street and there is a danger of saturation."

But Bob Cartwright, communications director for Bass Taverns which owns 87 O'Neill's Irish-style pubs, strongly disagreed with the guide's findings.

"There is cracking service and very good food and a really good ambience. O'Neill's is highly successful because it appeals to a broad section of people who might not normally go out to the pub," he said.

The guide also notes that

landlords in the North are raising their glasses to the North-South divide after a new survey found that almost half the top-rated pubs were situated there.

There was a "distinct shift" in centres of excellence, with the North taking over from the West Country, which was criticised for bowing to the "perils of over-exposure, seasonal trade and a hefty dose of 'resting on laurels'."

In contrast, pubs in areas such as Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands have done well this year with many more winning the coveted "two rosettes" award which indicates the quality of bar food is comparable to that in a serious restaurant.

Britons now munch their way through around £4bn worth of pub grub every year - spending as much on eating in pubs as they do in restaurants.

The Which? Guide to Country Pubs is published by Which? Ltd and can be ordered by calling 0800 252100; price £14.99, or it can be purchased from good bookshops.

Teachers face out bullies in the staffroom

Lucy Ward

Brow-beaten teachers are calling stress helplines in the middle of the night after suffering at the hands of staff room bullies. Amid mounting evidence that "school rage" is no longer confined to the playground, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers yesterday issued guidance to help victims stand up to their tormentors.

On the second day of its conference in Cardiff, the union heard that bullied teachers were reporting vicious campaigns of persistent undermining, intimidation and humiliation, usually waged by heads and senior managers.

The bullying can be physical, verbal, or non-verbal, and might include ostracising, setting impossible objectives, unreasonable allocation of duties, or even inappropriate eye contact, according to the new guidance.

Teachers falling victim to such behaviour could, in extreme cases, develop school phobia, and fear going to work to face threatening colleagues. They might also suffer a loss of confidence in their professional abilities and become reluctant to voice opinions to managers.

The worst culprits were

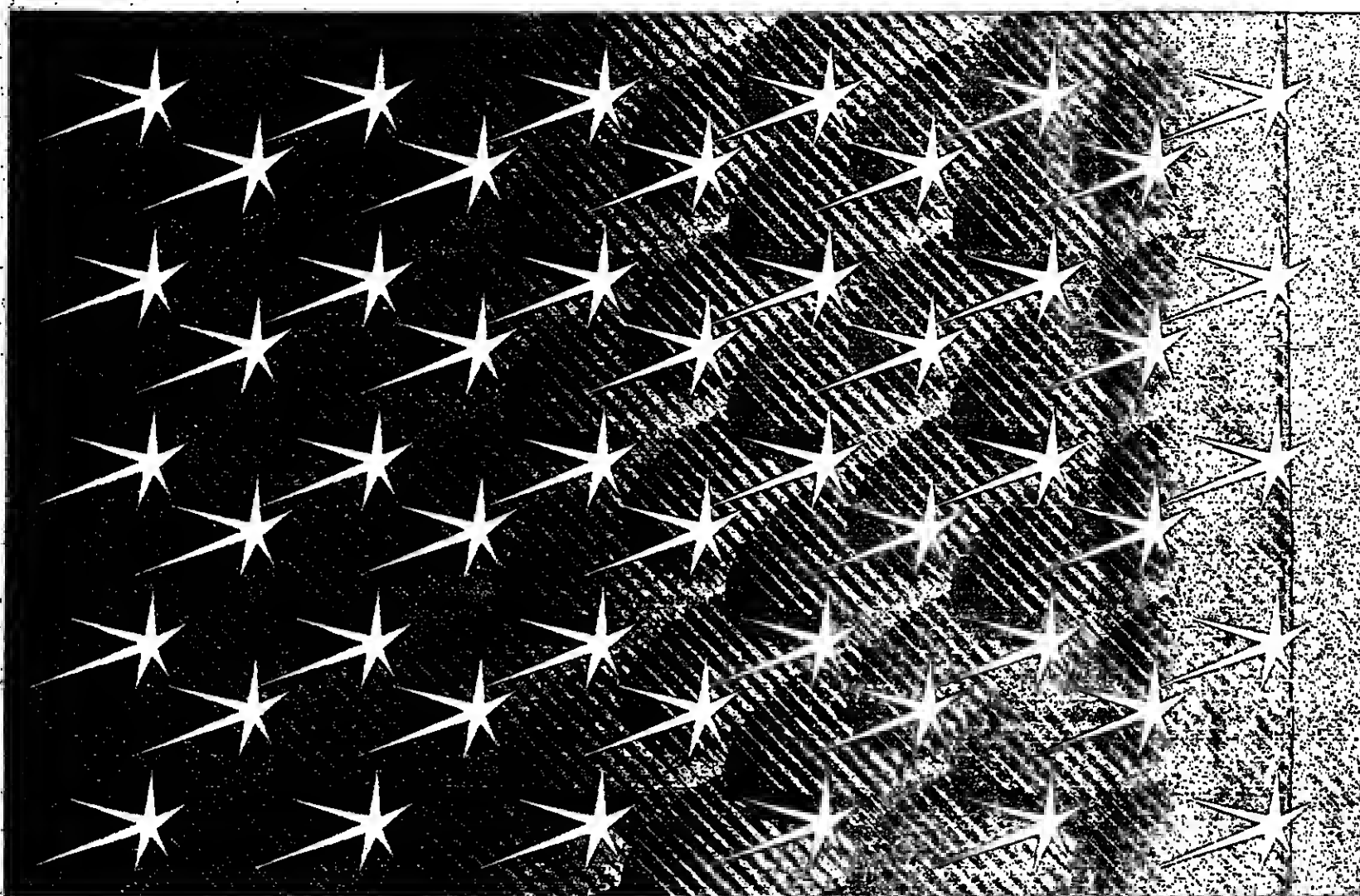
head teachers and senior school managers who abused their power, often because they were under pressure, but bullying tactics were also used by classroom teachers, governors, parents and non-teaching staff.

Belinda Hall, who runs the ATL's stress helpline, said the number of bullying-related calls had increased to one new case every working day.

Peter Smith, the union's general secretary, denied that it was launching a "get head teachers' campaign". He said that its guidelines would give teachers valuable weapons to identify and combat adult bullying in their schools and colleges.

The guidance identifies eight common types of bullies and the tactics used. Among them are "the refrigerator" who freeze out exceptional teachers in favour of poorer less threatening colleagues, and "the allocator" who singles out staff unfairly by allocating them the worse jobs.

"Changelings" are sly managers who fail to treat their staff consistently, fairly and equally, leaving them unsure where they stand, while "proceduralists" are head teachers and department heads who abide by school rules exhaustively and very slowly to undermine morale.



DAILY POEM

High Time

By Heinrich Heine

It really is time I had the sense
To give up this endless morose
Play-acting. I just can't go on
Being so histrionic.

The glorious backcloth was always daubed
In the high-Romantic fashion.
My knightly mantle shone like gold,
I felt the most exquisite passion.

Yet now that my melodramatic streak
Has been seen through with suitable cunning,
I feel as miserable as before.
As if the old play were still running.

O God! unknowing and in jest
I spoke my genuine feeling.
There was death in my breast when I merely thought
I was making a death-scene appealing.

The new Everyman's Poetry selection of Heinrich Heine's verse is translated and edited by David Cram and T J Reed (Everyman/J M Dent, £2). The bicentenary of the poet's birth (as Harry Heine, to a Jewish family in Düsseldorf) falls on 13 December this year.

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Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

Mr Straw's strong position has possibly been influenced by a case described in the home affairs committee report as a "quintessential masonic police scandal" which occurred in his Blackburn constituency. Two businessmen, Shaun and Sydney Callis, entered a private func-

■ *'Freemasonry in the Police and the Judiciary'*; House of Commons Home Affairs Committee; Stationery Office; £6.20.

A grainy, black and white photograph of a suspension bridge at night. The bridge's cables and deck are silhouetted against a dark sky. A small, illuminated structure, possibly a tower or observation point, stands in the foreground on the left side of the bridge deck.

The replica *Endeavour* appearing through the early morning mist on the Thames yesterday as it prepared to pass under the road bridge at Dartford Photograph: John Voos

Louise Jury

An £8m replica of Captain Cook's ship, the *Endeavour*, sailed up the Thames and into London yesterday to begin the British celebrations of the 18th-century adventurer's remarkable expeditions. It will be now opened to the public, who can see the conditions under which Cook's pioneering voyages to Australasia were made.

Described as the most authentic replica ship in the world, it took six years to construct from original plans and papers stored at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, southeast London, and was funded by the Endeavour Foundation in Fremantle, Western Australia. The ship left Australia for its grand voyage to Britain last October and will now berth at Greenwich for two weeks before

embarking on a coastal tour including stops at Great Yarmouth, Whitby, Inverness, Liverpool, Fishguard and Plymouth. -

The first *Endeavour* was built in 1765 at Whitby, North Yorkshire, where Cook trained in maritime navigation. Although obliged by law to have radar and back-up engines, the modern counterpart is sailed in much the same way as when Cook left Britain in 1768. There are lam-

inated masts and synthetic canvas, but below decks the modern *Endeavour* is arranged exactly as it was in his time.

This was the ship in which he set sail to observe the transit of Venus across the sun over Tahiti. In New Zealand, he and his crew became the first Europeans to record Maoris. Joining the very select band of Europeans to have visited Australia, in 1770 they discovered the

east coast – setting the foundations for the colonisation of Australasia and seeing for the first time Aborigines, koalas and kangaroos.

But life on board was tough. Of the 44 men who sailed, only 41 survived the voyage and the ship came close to being wrecked as the crew struggled to navigate the Great Barrier Reef.

replica ship today. They will meet some of the 52 crew from Britain, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, including some who have been on board for the full 115 days at a personal cost of £4,500.

Places are still available for manning the ship as she sails between British ports. Applicants must be over 18, have some experience of the sea and a good head for heights.

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Bullet train claims new speed record

Richard Lloyd Parry
Tokyo

As well as being the fastest, the Japanese bullet train is the oldest, the most efficient, and surely the best-equipped high-speed train in the world.

If I were an executive, with meetings to hold, managing directors to schmooze with, big transactions to direct, and expensive dinners to reserve, all could be easily accomplished on the bullet train.

If I were a nursing mother, I could feed the baby, change its nappy, and dress for dinner in secure privacy. For a wheelchair-bound passenger, there would be no problem - as well as private-meeting facilities, long-distance phones, digital financial news, and ladies powder-rooms, the Max Yamabiko bullet train on which I travelled from Tokyo to the northern city of Morioka has a lift for disabled passengers. Yamabiko means "Echo" (bullet trains all bear faintly poetic names). Max stands for Multi-Amenity eXpress, and all it lacks is a barber's shop and multi-gym.

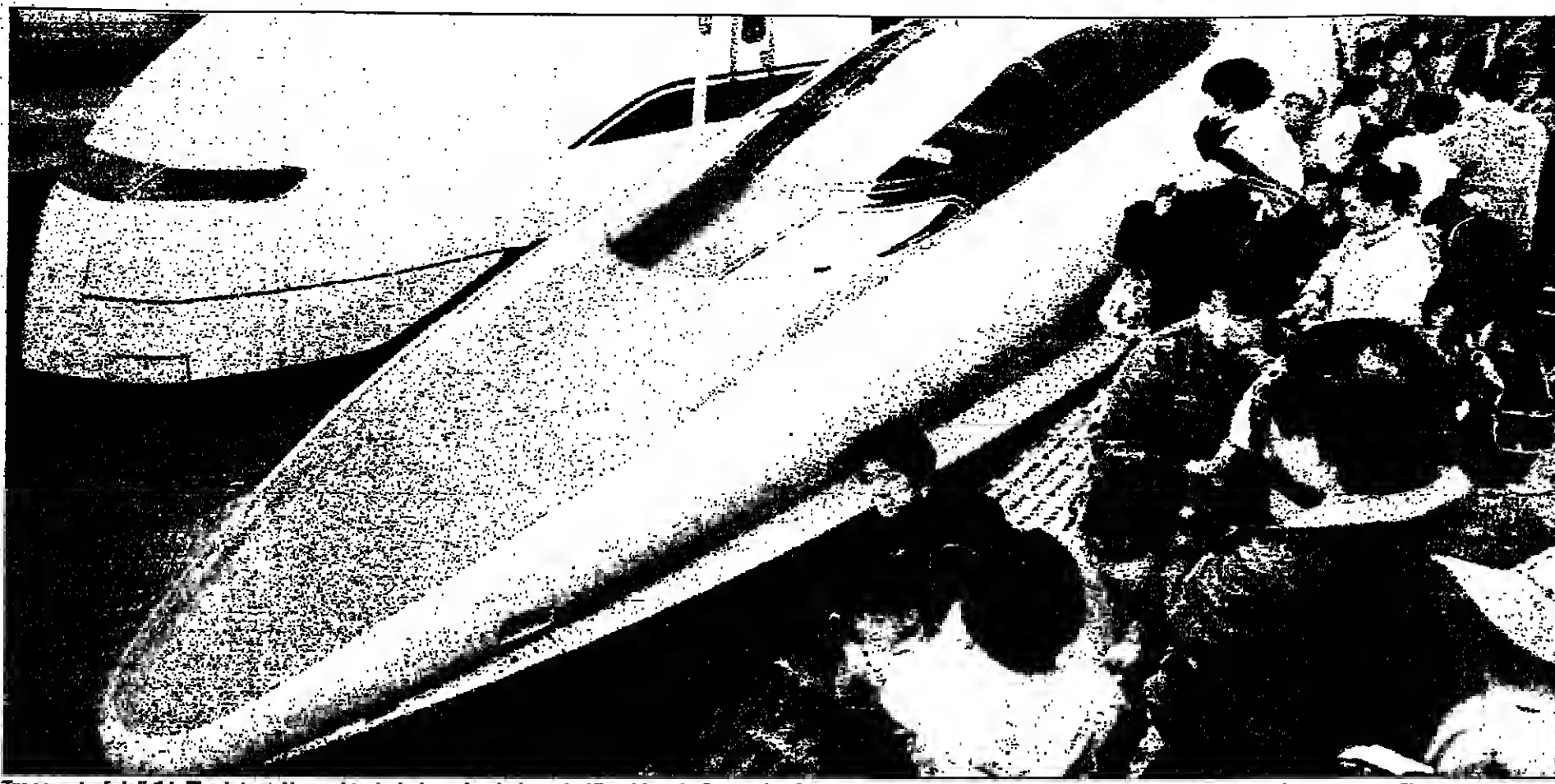
Sinking back into my deep-sea seat on the top floor of the double-decker carriage as rice fields whizzed by at 140mph, I was filled with intoxicating feelings of urgency and mission.

Japan, scattered over four main islands, is 1,200 miles from end to end, but the brilliance and efficiency of its trains make it feel like a small and compact country. This week, it became smaller still with the opening of the latest extension to the shinkansen (which means simply "new express line"), to the northern city of Akita.

Once transport to the airport and check-in times have been taken into account, it is slightly quicker to get from Tokyo to many Japanese cities by rail.

A German teacher, Jobst-Mathias Spannagel, came to Japan last month to set a world record for the number of rail miles travelled in a single day - 2,607.5 on five separate journeys. All these feats are made possible by the bullet train.

Though synonymous with high-speed travel, the bullet train had lost ground to the



Transport of delight: The latest Nozomi train being wheeled out in Hiroshima before going into service, during which it outperformed the French TGV

Photograph: Reuters

French TGV, which holds the current official record for average speed between two stations of 157mph, achieved between Paris and St Pierre des Corps. In a bid to regain the lead, the Japanese introduced the Nozomi line in 1992, and on Saturday the Nozomi-503, equipped with a long-nose lead carriage and new sound-proofing for a faster, quieter ride, smashed through the record.

Carrying 1,300 passengers in 16 carriages from Osaka to Fukuoka, it hit speeds of up to 300kph (186mph) and sustained an average speed of 261.8kph (163mph) between stops in Hiroshima and Kokura, on the southern island of Kyushu. Its owners, the West Japan Railway Company, have applied to the Guinness Book of World Records

for official recognition. It was an important recovery of image. No other high-speed train has become such an institution or played such a symbolic part in a nation's development. The shinkansen was built for the Tokyo Olympics in the pivotal year of 1964. The spectacle of the bullet train, scything through the countryside with Mt Fuji in the background, became an instant and memorable national image. Along with the 16 gold medals won in the Games by Japanese athletes, it marked an important moment in the country's growing self-confidence and rehabilitation.

Since then, the bullet train has embodied the best and worst about Japan. During the 1970s it became a byword for corruption, thanks to Kakuei Tanaka, Japan's most notorious prime minister, who eventually came to a sticky end after the Lockheed bribery scandal. Tanaka came from Niigata, a busy, but not especially significant port on Japan's north-west coast. Like all good Japanese politicians, he depended for his grass-roots support on local businessmen who bankrolled his political activities in return for juicy public-works projects awarded from Tokyo. To the delight of his constituents, Tanaka presented them with the greatest prize of all - their own shinkansen line, linking obscure Niigata with Tokyo Central.

Never mind that there were far more worthy candidates for this honour, never mind the environmental impact of the project on the beautiful Japan Alps through which the line was bored. Tanaka was looking after his own (with undoubted financial benefits to himself) and, even after his criminal

conviction, the late prime minister is remembered in Niigata as a hero.

Bullet train-spotting is a complicated business these days - in the 32 years since its debut,

the original design has been improved and modified in a hungry quest for greater speed and volume. The Nozomis do not in fact look like bullets, but have tapering wedge-shaped aero-

dynamic noses, designed to reduce wind resistance and (the shinkansen's besetting problem) noise pollution.

Tests are already being carried out on the maglev, an

amazing vehicle which levitates above its rails on a magnetic cushion, and may one day carry passengers as fast as 300mph. This summer, the Fujita Corporation began tests on models

of the ultimate bullet train - the geoplane, a winged cigar tube which will take off from its rails to fly through tunnels between Tokyo and Osaka at 370mph.

But after the initial excitement has worn off, travelling by shinkansen is a curiously empty experience.

The Max Yamabiko is the Q&E of bullet trains, a cruise liner on rails capable of carrying 1,235 people in its 12 amenity-rich double-decker carriages.

At full tilt, it can reach 150 mph, but even close to that there is no sensation of speed. The most dramatic place to witness the bullet train is from outside, standing on the platform as a non-stop express passes through the station, a minor earthquake of tremors and back-draught.

From the inside, the only sound to punctuate its noiseless glide is the whirr of the air conditioner: there is no clackety-clack or Chaitanogochoo-choo, and the views which whip by through the thick and even glass have the unreality of images on a television screen.

Passengers do not talk to each other. With its howling stewards and their drinks trolleys, the magazines in the seat backs, and the womb-like, squeaky-clean toilets, the shinkansen has more in common with Concord than the Flying Scotsman.

Perhaps this is the shinkansen's most remarkable achievement: that after 150 years of smoke, noise, smells, and discomfort, it has succeeded in taking the romance out of the railway.

On track for a record

- On Saturday the Nozomi-503 hit an average speed of 163mph between Hiroshima and Kokura.
- The current official record holder, the French Train à Grande Vitesse (TGV), reaches an average speed of 157mph between Paris and St Pierre des Corps.
- The Nozomi also matched the top speed reached by the TGV, 300kph.
- The Eurostar from London to Paris reaches 186kph for most of its journey on the French side of the Channel.
- The fastest speed recorded by a national rail system is 322.2kph, by a TGV between Courmoulin and Tournai in May 1989.
- The fastest speed record was achieved by Stephenson's Rocket on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway when it ran at 25.1kph on 6 October 1825.
- The fastest was the fastest steam locomotive, reaching a speed of 125kph between Grantham and Peterborough in July 1881.
- In 1934, the Flying Scotsman hit 100kph for 500 yards between Grantham and Peterborough - although an unpowered train-timer said it reached no more than 98mph.
- The first regular scheduled service to hit speeds of more than 100kph was the Japanese shinkansen line. The service, introduced in 1964, took passengers from Tokyo to Osaka at an average speed of 103.5kph and a maximum speed of 130kph.

Pirate seizes Italy's unguarded airwaves

Andrew Gumbel
Rome

A pirate is at large in northern Italy. No, he is not menacing ships on the high seas, nor is he roaming the majestic old port of Venice. This is a pirate with an acute sense of the media-obsessed times, and he is striking at the state where it hurts most - right in the middle of the main evening news.

Three times in the last week, viewers in the north-eastern Veneto region have been blasted with several minutes of secessionist propaganda during the eight o'clock bulletin on the flagship state channel RAI Uno.

Each time, the sound has gone dead and a man calling himself the Pirate Doge has rallied against the "rotten and corrupt" Italian state, urging his "indomitable fellow patriots of the Veneto" to rise up in revolt against the colonialist government of Rome.



Bossi: Independence begins at last on 14 September

All of this smacks of the colourful agitprop of Umberto Bossi, leader of the Northern League and godfather of Padania, the hitherto mythical new country made up of the richest of Italy's northern regions. It has Mr Bossi's love of defiance and his perverse sense of humour.

But Mr Bossi himself may not actually be behind the stunt. Instead, what we could be seeing is a new frontier in northern separatism - the quite distinct secessionist aspirations of the Veneto region.

The Veneto is where the League movement began in the late-1970s, and it has become the most radical region by far in its hatred of government, and especially of taxation, imposed by Rome.

The protest has particular poignancy, since the Italian government is about to embark on its umpteenth round of budget austerity to try to qualify for

European Monetary Union on the first go. The separatist message is simple: why should we fork out more taxes and sacrifice our welfare provisions when we in the north are ready to join Europe but the south is not?

The television pirate is not the only one trumpeting this message. Mr Bossi was in fine form at a rally in Milan over the weekend, describing Italy as a fascist, colonialist state and promising independence for Padania on 14 September 14. "The government of Padania will have to decide... if the police of the north will march with submachine guns slung over their shoulders," he warned in provocative fashion. "We are decent people, but please, my Roman friends, don't piss around with us any more."

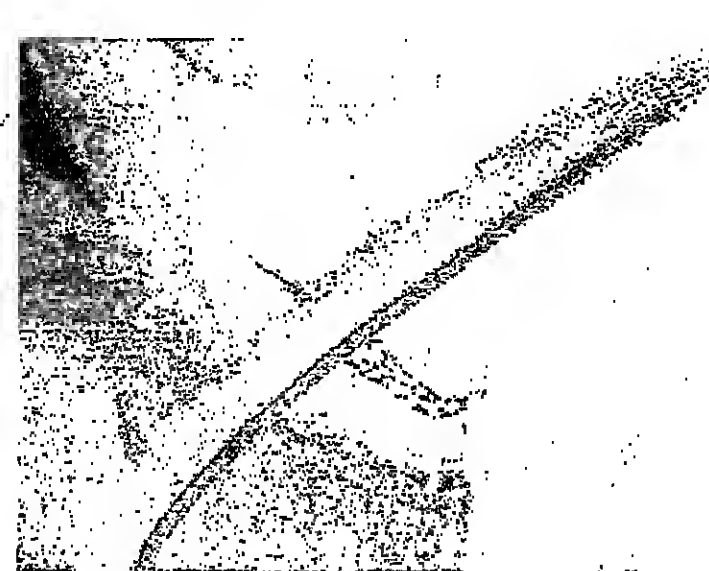
The judiciary, meanwhile, is taking a renewed interest in Mr Bossi's friends, and the Pirate Doge in particular. Magistrates have opened four separate investigations into the intercepted news broadcasts, one for each of the incidents and an extra one, for good measure, into the phenomenon of "instigation to subvert the unity of the Italian state".

Mainstream politicians in the north have warned that the Pirate Doge is not an isolated phenomenon, and is likely to strike again at any time.

Padua and Bergamo are top of the guess-list for his next target. Curious viewers simply have to tune in and wait for the show to roll on.



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Nevertheless, Britain's partners know they cannot afford to dismiss Mr Rifkind's attack so

The Foreign Secretary described the entire approach of the draft as a betrayal of the principles set down at Maastricht. He recalled that at Maastricht it was agreed that key areas of European policy-making, such as immigration and criminal justice, foreign policy and defence, would be decided through loose co-operation and would not be brought under the

direct control of EU institutions. Plans to give Brussels power over immigration and justice would "in practice mean that Britain's immigration policy or asylum policy could simply be overruled by a majority vote in the council of ministers," he said. "It does not need me to tell you that such proposals are totally unacceptable and should

The Foreign Secretary made it clear that the proposal from other member states to allow Britain to "opt out" from plans to abolish internal border controls would not deal with British objections on immigration and justice issues. The Government would still fiercely oppose the

integration of immigration and justice policy into EU structures as a threat to national sovereignty.

Revised Franco-German plans to give the EU powers over defence policy, including in the long run, powers to command forces, were also rejected by Mr Rifkind. The plans, which also worry some other

member states, particularly the neutral countries, envisage the incorporation of the Western European Union (WEU), the EU's institutional defence arm, into the Union itself.

Mr Rifkind said if the WEU were to become part of the European Union, the EU would be adopting "a commitment to go to war if a member state is

Relations with Russia could also be damaged if the EU turned itself into a defence organisation, Mr Rifkind said.

As Europe's foreign ministers

The measures being taken to meet the Maastricht criteria, he said, were slowing down Europe's economies. Even France and Germany were having difficulty meeting

Mr Dini's remarks were quickly scotched both by the Germans and the French. "If we want to change the rules we have to renegotiate the Maastricht treaty. As long as we have this treaty we have to abide by it,"

Mr Dini made a similar proposal in Majora in September 1995, when he was Italy's prime minister, and received an equally chilly reception. The problem for Italy, then and now, is that qualification for monetary union is a supreme political goal

Mr Dini's government, and the present centre-left coalition led by Romano Prodi, have made gargantuan efforts to rein in Italy's runaway public finances. It is still conceivable — just — that Italy could meet the main Maastricht criteria, a deficit-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio of 3 per cent, by the end of this year. But the rest of the European Union, particularly Germany, has grown more nervous in the face of Italy's

Italian diplomats realise that their only chance of joining the euro on time is if the whole process is delayed, and they have been lobbying hard behind the scenes on this platform for several weeks. Italy's problems, though, is a lack of allies in the EU. Spain views Italy as a competitor, not as a collaborator, while Greece and Portugal are too far off target to even hope to qualify for monetary union.

Italy's next best option would be a late entry – some time after 1999 but before 2002, when the final phase of Emu is due to be completed. It is not an option the government is keen to contemplate because it is fraught with political unknowns. One big risk is that Mr Prodi's government would fall and plunge the country into yet another crisis. Or that the ill-content north – goaded by the separatist Northern League – could push to be admitted to the euro club and leave the rest of the country behind.

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1. Customer's money will be held by the Trustees of the "Holiday Trust" in accordance with the General Passenger Conditions issued by the Dept of Trade and Industry governing the provision of package tour bookings. 2. Customer's money will only be released by the Trustees to the Tour Operator in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Holiday Trust, a copy of which may be obtained on request. 3. In the event that we are unable to confirm your booking, all monies will be returned to you. No other refund will be made. 4. All spaces are subject to a special allocation of availability. 5. Cancellations made more than 28 days before departure will be charged 50% of the full holiday price. Any made within 28 days of departure will be charged the full holiday price. 6. Alternative 4 people are subject to a £20 supplement fee. 7. Minimum booking notice is 14 days. 8. In the event that demand for the required hotel exceeds allocation, we reserve the right to book applicants on alternative hotels of similar quality. 9. The premises, the car and the hotel will not be liable for any losses or expenses, whatsoever, should your car crossing be delayed or cancelled. Please ensure you have adequate travel insurance. 10. No telephone bookings will be accepted. 11. Maximum of 4 people per car. 12. No babies, strollers, extra babies or travel vans are allowed within the terms of the offer. 13. Travel must take place as indicated on the tickets. 14. SeaFrance will endeavour to dispatch tickets at least 10 days prior to departure. 15. Valid passport/Visa are required. 16. Damage to car is subject to the terms and conditions of the carrier. 17. Currency fluctuations up to 5% will be absorbed. Therefore a supplement will be charged (rates calculated at Feb 5 at £1).

Hong Kong 香港 handover

Colony threatens Gore's fragile friendship

Teresa Poole
Peking

As far as China's prime minister, Li Peng, was concerned yesterday, Taiwan was "the central issue with the utmost importance and sensitivity" in Sino-US relations. But in the immediate future it is Hong Kong which could disrupt the fragile improvement in relations between Washington and Peking, sealed this week by the arrival of Vice-President Al Gore, the highest level American official to visit China since the 1989 Tiananmen killings.

Mr Gore met Mr Li yesterday for talks which both men sought to present as constructive and amiable. Nei-

ther human rights nor the controversy surrounding alleged Chinese political donations in the US was permitted to cloud the occasion.

Mr Gore said his meetings had been "very positive". According to the Chinese, the Vice-President had prepared well for his first trip to the Middle Kingdom by reading "quite a lot of books" about Chinese culture and history; as proof, Mr Gore quoted an old Chinese saying that "seeing once is better than hearing 100 times".

Mr Li told Mr Gore that China was "fully confident on the smooth transfer and the stability and prosperity" of Hong Kong after sovereignty reverted to China on 1 July. Earlier this month, US Congressmen

voted 416-1 for a bill which has infuriated China because it calls for trade sanctions if the US administration decides that Peking has broken its pledges of a high degree of autonomy for the former British colony after the handover.

Yesterday, Mr Gore stressed to Mr Li that "preserving Hong Kong's economic vigour and long-term prosperity and stability was very important for the whole world". Formal agreement was reached yesterday for the US to maintain a consulate in Hong Kong after 1 July.

The potential for the Hong Kong issue to undermine Sino-US relations this year was emphasised yesterday by Joseph Nye, the former US as-

sistant secretary of defense, who was on a separate visit to Peking.

"There will be many in the [US] Congress who may find the smallest incidents after the turnover of Hong Kong as grounds to try to bring about a problem in US-China relations. This is certainly a real possibility," Mr Nye said. Peking should be careful "not to take actions, particularly actions after the reversion of Hong Kong which would feed into those who wish to vilify China", added Mr Nye, who is now Dean of the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. It was "critical" that China abide by its "one country, two systems" principle for governing the territory.

After meetings with senior government and military officials, Mr Nye said he had been "pleasantly surprised by the sophistication of the answers ... particularly on Hong Kong ... Now whether they will be able to follow through on that in the heat of the moment, when somebody chains themselves to the fence outside Government House, and the TV cameras all carry that as if it is the major event in Hong Kong, I don't know."

One possible threat to Hong Kong's future under Chinese rule is the politicisation of trade and business, an issue which came to the fore in Peking yesterday. Fighting shy of any role as a dealmaker, Mr Gore's publicly issued itinerary made no

mention of any contract signings by US companies, even though these normally take centre-stage during such visits.

In the end, however, he and Mr Li duly presided as Boeing and General Motors closed much-delayed contracts. Boeing has sold five 777-200 jets, worth \$685m (£425m), to Air China, while General Motors sealed a \$1.57bn joint venture in Shanghai to make sedans.

Ronald Woodward, president of Boeing's Commercial Airplane Group, said both sides reached basic agreement a year ago, but signing was delayed. "There is no doubt the contract was not executed when it was ready because of tension be-

tween the US and China last year and the year before," he said. "There are times when politics are involved."

John Smith, chairman of General Motors, said Mr Gore's trip had provided a "catalyst" for his signing. The Vice-President's visit, paving the way for a Sino-US presidential summit later this year, is a key test for the US administration in defending its policy of "constructive engagement" with China.

Mr Nye firmly backed its approach. "If the alternative is a follow a pre-emptive containment policy, I know the outcome, and I would submit that a Cold War in Asia would be a costly event for all of us, and not necessary," he said.

Deposed reformist shows first signs of a comeback

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Communist Party leader deposed during the 1989 democracy protests, appears to be taking the first steps towards a political comeback, according to reports in a Hong Kong newspaper.

Yesterday's *Hong Kong Standard* states that Mr Zhao arrived in Shanghai, China's biggest city, over the weekend in a special train with "several members of his personal entourage and more than a dozen security personnel". The report quotes witnesses as saying that security was as tight as that provided for state leaders.

It is not clear what Mr Zhao is doing in Shanghai. He is said not to be meeting senior officials but to be having discussions with more junior cadres alongside visits to state-run companies to study how they are coming to terms with China's economic reform programme.

Mr Zhao was forced out of office after showing sympathy for the democracy protesters and arguing against the hard-line which led to the Tiananmen Square massacre. In 1987 he was hand-picked by the late Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, as the nation's new leader.

Deng shared Mr Zhao's en-



1991: Zhao Ziyang with Deng Xiaoping. Photograph: Magnum

thusiasm for economic reform but bitterly opposed his support for political reform.

The deposed leader has made no public appearance for almost eight years, although he has been seen playing golf and was rumoured to have made a tour of the South some three years ago, although this was never confirmed.

Last month Mr Zhao asked for permission to attend Deng's funeral. His request was turned down. President Jiang Zemin, the Communist Party leader, is reported to have issued an order for Mr Zhao to remain in isolation, although he is not under house arrest, as some sources have stated.

Last week Hong Kong's Chinese language *Apple Daily* newspaper published what it said was the text of a letter sent by Mr Zhao to Mr Jiang and the committee preparing the Communist Party Congress, expected to be held this autumn. Mr Zhao sharply criticises the emergence of a personality cult around Mr Jiang, suggesting that the image of a collective leadership is a mirage.

Mr Zhao is also quoted as criticising the new leaders for back-

tracking on economic reform and raising the delicate subject of the Tiananmen massacre. Like a number of other influential Chinese personalities, Mr Zhao is calling for a reassessment of the 1989 crackdown.

It is hard to believe that Mr Jiang would allow such an unrepentant critic to return to the fold. However, the President is facing more overt criticism from leftist hardliners and may feel the need to make a gesture to Mr Zhao as a way of keeping the Communist Party's reformist wing inside.

Zhao Ziyang is hardly the liberal politician he is fondly imagined to be by some Western politicians but for the past decade he has been the most articulate and forceful advocate of reform within the Communist context. Like Deng Xiaoping, who suffered exile for being a reformist during the Cultural Revolution, Mr Zhao may yet emerge as a rallying point for reformists in the new era.

As ever the bulk of the information about the power struggle in Peking is percolating through to Hong Kong which, for the time being, retains its position as the main source of "unofficial" information about Chinese affairs. Whether this will continue after 1 July, when China resumes sovereignty, is in question.



Growing up: A man meeting his daughter outside a school in Hong Kong. Many parents are against their children receiving sex education at an early age. Photograph: Tom Pilon

Sexual taboos break into the classroom

Stephen Vines

The "taboo" subjects of "masturbation, homosexuality, premarital sex and sexual harassment etc" are to be broached in Hong Kong's secondary schools if government proposals are accepted. In addition, for the first time, sex education will appear on the curriculum for kindergartens and primary schools.

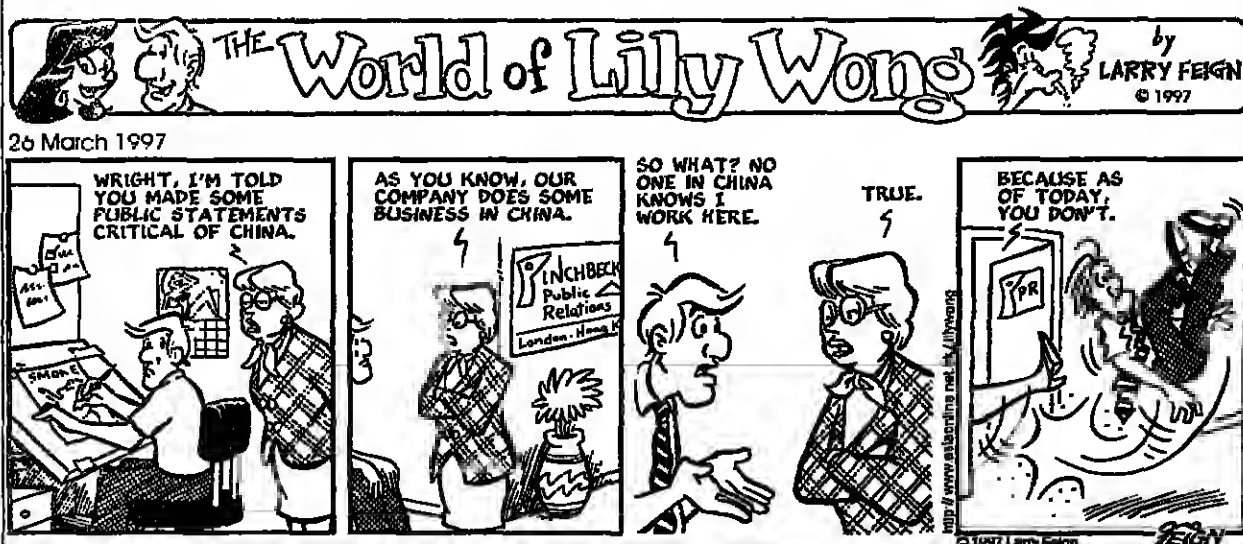
Yesterday the colony's administration issued new guidelines on sex education. Julian Leung, assistant director of education, said revisions were necessary "in view of the rapid social changes over the past 10 years". The government was trying to help teachers equip students with "the attitudes, values and knowledge necessary for solving sex tensions".

The guidelines also provide for education on Aids as an "emphasis on the clarification of values, positive self-esteem, and concepts of marriage and family". Hong Kong schools are not known as centres of enlightenment, particularly when it comes to sex education. Surveys taken among young people have shown high level of ignorance about sex.

The proposed guidelines are expected to be opposed by teachers reluctant to teach about sex and parents who seem to believe their children should not have access to sexual information at an early age.

Evidence suggests sex education is badly needed in Hong Kong. A survey by a group concerned about proliferation of pornography found that over a quarter of boys questioned said they would commit rape if this did not mean going to jail.

Last year a consultation exercise on sexual discrimination found 53 per cent of those questioned would not allow a homosexual into their homes. 7 per cent would not stay in the same hotel as a homosexual or bi-sexual and one in five people stated they would not shake hands with a gay person.



The battle for history: Struggle to rewrite the past puts classrooms and textbooks in the frontline

Truth goes to the wall as German right makes a final stand for Hitler's army

Racism still on reading list for SA children

Inna Karacs
Dachau

They are re-enacting the Second World War in Bavaria's green fields. The outcome will doubtless still be the same as 52 years ago, except that this time the home side has high hopes of scoring a moral victory.

Apart from one street skirmish in Munich, little blood has been shed so far, but truth has already become a casualty. A motley collection of conservatives, opportunists and neo-Nazis is trying to convince Germans that Hitler's regular army has had a bad press. The Wehrmacht, they claim, had virtually nothing to do with the extermination of Jews and the mass murder of civilians.

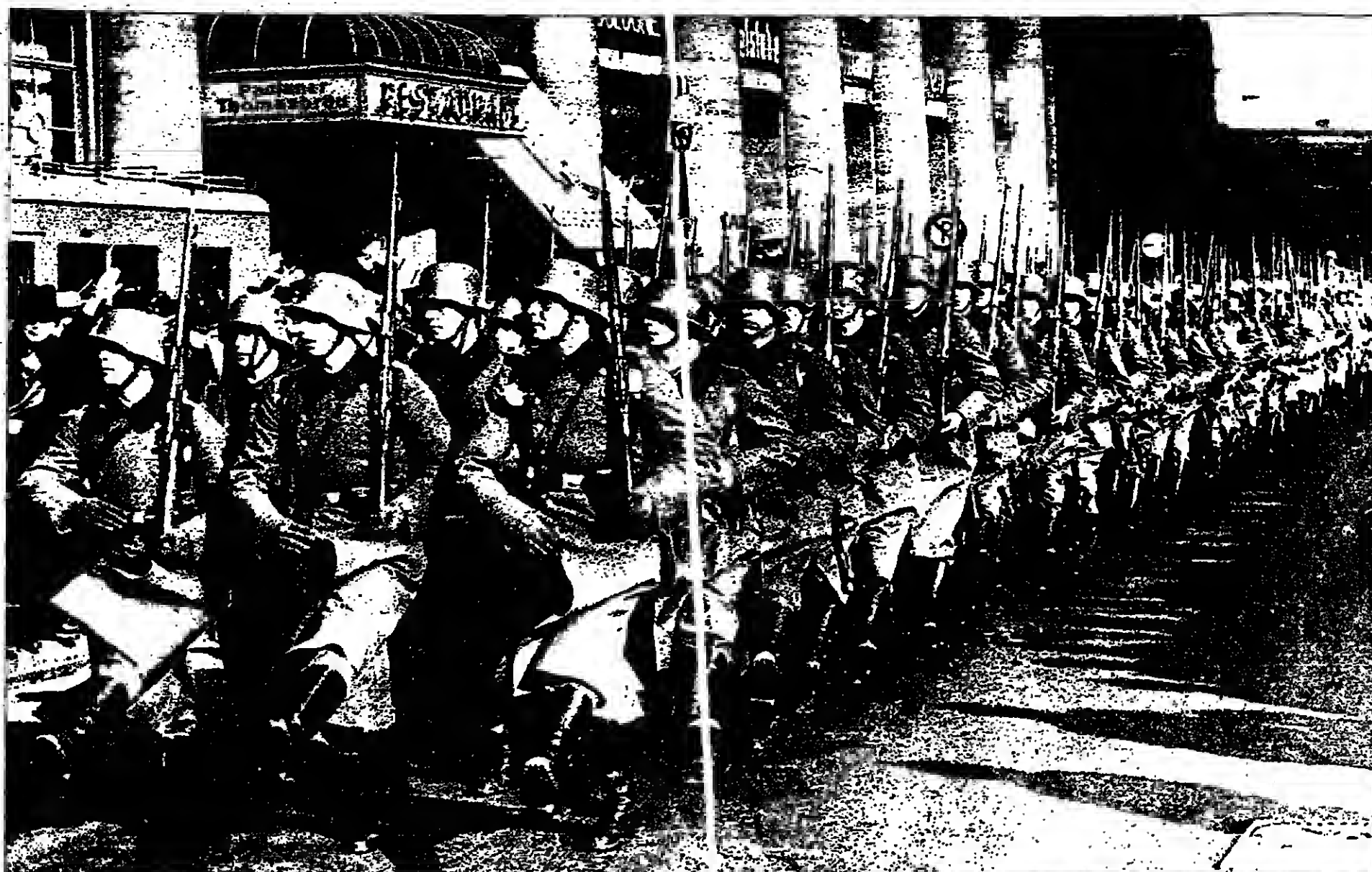
Evidence to the contrary, as displayed in an exhibition in Munich about the "Crimes of the Wehrmacht", is concocted by Communist provocateurs, they charge. The "slanderees" are now being exposed by Bavaria's right-wing government and young minds are about to be cleansed of this filthy propaganda.

In the latest row about the exhibition, which has already been shown in 15 other German and Austrian cities without much fuss, Bavaria's culture minister, Hans Zehetmair, has taken aim at history lessons. Teachers, he suggested, should not cloud the pupils' vision with images of Wehrmacht officers executing civilians in occupied countries.

Teachers and pupils must be very confused, for the history textbooks approved by the very same culture minister are replete with the sort of pictures now hanging in Munich's town hall. Bavaria's conservatives are two decades out of sync.

For 30 years after '45 the general view was that the Wehrmacht were clean, says Karl Bruckmayer, history teacher at Dachau's Josef Effner grammar school, a honey-comb-shaped architectural wonder less than a mile from Germany's earliest monument. "But since the Seventies, the Wehrmacht's role in the Final Solution has been explored."

Mr Bruckmayer flicks through the books, revealing harrowing photographs of death camps and chapters of dense text on genocide.



German soldiers march into the Rhineland. Since the 1970s, historians have confirmed that the regular army played a key role in the mass extermination of Jews and civilians

You could not come away from it with the naive belief that the Nazis' crimes were perpetrated only by a few. Just in case the pupils do not get the point, there are field trips for the senior grades to the former concentration camp, and classroom discussions with Dachau survivors about the Holocaust. This year, the 10th grade - 18-year-olds - also paid a visit to the Munich exhibition.

They enjoyed what they saw, insofar as one can enjoy such an outing, but profess not to have

learned much from it. "What we saw, we knew already," one of them commented.

Perhaps coming from this infamous town on the outskirts of Munich has made them more knowledgeable than their contemporaries? "It's true that living here, you get a slightly different perspective," Manuela Winkler, one of the 18-year-olds, says. But, judging from the fleet of school buses which crowd the memorial's car park, the locals are not alone in their inquisitiveness.

Tens of thousands of children have been to the Munich exhibition, which has broken all attendance records. The teachers' trade union reports an upsurge of interest to the period across Bavaria and the teachers themselves say they can barely keep up with their pupils' insatiable hunger for the grizzly details. Many youngsters may well be doing for their final year history projects what Manuela has in mind: interviewing people in her village near Dachau about what they did during the war.

A lot of people will get hurt in this process; a lot of God-fearing Catholic folk who have always voted for Bavaria's eternal ruling party, the Christian Social Union. And not just former soldiers.

"If we look at the army's role, then we have to look at the role of doctors in this town, because Dachau was an extermination camp for handicapped people," says Mr Bruckmayer. "And if we look at doctors, then we have to look at the legal profession, who endorsed forcible

euthanasia. And so it goes on."

Understandably, some conservatives want to put a stop to this quest for the ultimate truth. Thus do the Christian Socialists find themselves in the same camp as neo-Nazis, in a Quixotic battle for the honour of the dead and the dying. They must stand up for the wartime generation, because the wartime doctors, lawyers and other professionals who form the bedrock of the party's support will be next in the firing line. The strategy will not pay off

in the long term. The voters the CSU tries to protect are defecting to the Grim Reaper, and there are not enough hard-right Bavarians to replace them. The big chieftains, including Munich, are already in the hands of the Social Democrats and Greens, and the party is set to lose its absolute majority in the regional parliament next year.

The Wehrmacht exhibition, which Germany's most right-wing governing party tried to obliterate, may prove to be the conservatives' Stalingrad.

Adrian Hadland

Three years after Nelson Mandela became president, many South African children are still being taught history from outdated, often racist, textbooks which most educationalists agree should be in the bin rather than in school satchels. "Lots and lots of them need to be got rid of," said Orenna Krut, a manager with one of the country's largest educational publishers, Maskew Miller Longman.

Until recently the fiefdom of Afrikaner publishing houses, the bulk of South Africa's history textbooks are full of the eurocentric emphases and historical distortions once considered necessary to sustain and legitimise Apartheid.

But rather than throw the books out, teachers and parents have little option other than to continue using them, for some age groups, until beyond the turn of the century.

While preparations are well underway for the introduction of a new school programme, called "Curriculum 2005", the anticipated change to new teaching methods and materials will take many years.

At a function in Cape Town on Monday, South Africa's education minister, Professor Sibusiso Bengu, formally received the official report on Curriculum 2005 from his technical advisory committee. According to Sheila Sisulu, an adviser to Bengu, the programme hopes to wean students from a textbook-dependent approach to education and encourage the use of multi-media resources. The textbooks that are used will be new or rewritten to give a more balanced view of South Africa's past.

Once approved, the new syllabus will be overhauled from next year, two school years at a time, and is scheduled to take until the end of 2004. Delays in defining the curriculum have, however, made it difficult for educational publishers to prepare appropriate texts in time.

The learning programmes for next year are still not available and it's March already. It is physically not possible for us to wait... Publishers are just trying to guess and do the best we can," Ms Krut said.

In the process of rewriting history, though, dangers lurk in the temptation to produce a "victor's history" as distorted one way as the previous ones were the other, according to one historian engaged in writing the new textbooks. "The temptation to glorify the struggle is bound to have an effect on history writing, replacing an Afrikaner nationalist text with a liberation movement narrative," the historian said.

The new curriculum is scheduled to be introduced in February next year.

Schoolbooks slow to admit Japan's shame

Richard Lloyd Parry
Tokyo

Question: when is a forcibly recruited military sex slave, not a forcibly recruited military sex slave? Answer: when she is a "comfort woman". What is the correct term for the dispatch of armed peace-keeping forces abroad? An "assignment". What do you call it when thousands of Japanese troops invade Manchuria? An "advance". What is the source of this cant, euphemism and evasiveness? Answer: Japan's school history text books.

Japan's modern history has always been an ideological battlefield, and nowhere has the fighting been fiercer than in the country's classrooms. Every four years all of the text books proposed by publishers for use in schools have to be submitted for screening by the Ministry of Education. Every four years, the screening process is the occasion of bitter struggles between liberal historians and teachers, and the powerful conservatives of the Japanese bureaucracy.

Over the past ten years, the former have won several significant victories

and in many ways today's history books are strikingly frank. Gone are the days when the invasion of Manchuria was euphemised as "an advance", and several of the texts make no bones about the Imperial Army's less glorious moments. "In Nanjing, the army massacred large numbers of Chinese people, including not only prisoners of war, but women and children," says one. "The deprivation of food created hardship for the people under Japanese occupation."

This year, a smouldering controversy has flared up over the inclusion,

for the first time, of references to the "comfort women", the Indonesian, Filipino and Korean sex slaves who were organised in front-line brothels for the use of the Imperial Army.

One hundred and sixteen conservative politicians have formed a cross-party parliamentary group objecting to what they call a "mischievous" emphasis on shameful aspects of Japan's history, although the references in several of the books are so brief as to be almost meaningless. One publisher records that the government "forced women to go with the army as 'com-

fort women" and treated them badly". The "comfort" which the women dispensed, and the details of their "bad" treatment are not explained.

But the education ministry reserves its most vigilant policing for references to current government policy, particularly about the notoriously euphemistic "Self Defence Forces". In numbers of troops and in its annual budget, the SDF is one of the biggest armies on earth, despite the clause in Japan's constitution which forbids the maintenance of war potential. Conscious of this ambiguity,

the government insists that it is not a "military" force at all, and all such insinuations are ruthlessly rooted out of text books.

When one made reference to the controversial "dispatch" of SDF troops on overseas peace-keeping operations, it was forced to adopt the less-militaristic sounding "assignment" instead. A sentence observing that the SDF has "grown into a new Japanese military force" was rewritten. Rather, the ministry insisted, the SDF "has grown identical to military forces in terms of capabilities".



According to Performance Car magazine
Fiesta is "a hoot to drive."

international

Rebel soldiers besiege Papua's parliament

Adrian Hadland
and Agencies

Armed soldiers and demonstrators prevented 100 MPs from leaving Papua New Guinea's parliament yesterday after the Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, survived a motion to oust him.

The no-confidence motion, defeated by 58 votes to 39, called on Sir Julius, together with other high-ranking ministers, to resign ahead of a judicial inquiry, due to begin on April 1, into a controversial \$36m (£22m) contract with foreign mercenaries. Last night about 250 soldiers, armed with M-16s and pistols, had set up roadblocks and were searching

for MPs outside the parliamentary compound.

Sir Julius's whereabouts were unknown last night, though there were reports that he had left parliament shortly after the vote.

The deal between Sir Julius's government and the British mercenary firm, Sandline International, sparked civil riots last week as well as a mutiny by military leaders, who alleged corruption and argued that the money would be better spent on local soldiers.

The mercenaries had been taken on to assist in crushing a secessionist rebellion on Bougainville, a copper-rich island 800 miles north-east of the country's capital, Port Moresby.

Soldiers of the Papuan army have been defying the government for the past week and all but one of the 60 mercenaries have been deported.

Major Walter Emma, a high-ranking soldier allied to the recently fired army leader Brigadier General Jerry Singirok, arrived at the compound late last night and tried to defuse the situation.

"The parliament has made its decision... and the military will respect it," Major Emma said. "There will be no confrontation." He then entered parliament to assure the politicians inside of their safety.

The former head of the army, Brig-Gen Singirok, was sacked by Sir Julius as a result of the



United: Soldiers joining civilians outside parliament in Port Moresby last night as they call for premier Sir Julius Chan's resignation. Photograph: Reuters

mutiny but remains in effective control of the army. He was not present at parliament yesterday.

During the debate, Sir Julius told parliament that the country's ill-trained and ill-equipped

soldiers had been captured on Bougainville and slain "like sitting ducks" by the rebels.

"There comes a time when you have to act in the interest of the nation's security," he told parliament. "I had to put the lives of our soldiers on Bougainville first."

Mathias Ijape, the Defence Minister, said the decision to hire the mercenaries had been

taken after Australia and New Zealand had refused to provide the military equipment and training needed to crush the rebellion.

"What do you expect a legitimate government of Papua New Guinea to do? Sit here and see this suffering?" Mr Ijape asked.

Although Sir Julius won a tactical victory, it immediately prompted outrage among protesters outside parliament. The crowd threw stones at cars and police responded with volleys of tear gas.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth secretary-general, interrupted an official visit to Australia this week and travelled to Papua New Guinea in an attempt to mediate the crisis. He arrived late on Monday, visited rebel army leaders at their barracks and spoke to a broad range of political leaders

before returning to Canberra. Both Chief Anyaoku and the Foreign Office urged a peaceful, constitutional settlement to the current crisis.

Economic analysts, meanwhile, say Papua New Guinea may yet pay dearly for the loss of stability in the region through capital flight and falling foreign reserves.

"The uncertainty itself will have an impact. The international banking system is very sensitive to political uncertainties in the country. I'm pretty sure Papua New Guinea would have lost a fair bit of foreign reserves by now," said Satish Chand, a specialist at the Australian National University's National Centre for Development Studies.

There were also fears that the World Bank and IMF would withdraw support if stability did not return, he said.

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MARKET, SO IT'S EASIER TO UNLOAD

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FOR A MORE EFFICIENT WASH

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significant shorts

Warrant for Galtieri over 'dirty war' killings

A Spanish judge issued an international arrest warrant for the former Argentine military president Leopoldo Galtieri for his alleged role in the killing of three Spaniards during Argentina's "dirty war". Baltasar Garçon, who is investigating the disappearance of 300 Spaniards in Argentina 1976-1983, said he was asking Interpol to take Mr Galtieri into custody if he leaves his homeland. He led the ruling junta 1980-1982 and ordered the invasion of the Falklands. Reuters - Madrid

Fears grow over mass killer

Police widened their search for more victims of a serial killer and tried to trace whether the trail of cut-up body parts from four women was linked to at least two similar murders. The new disclosures have shocked a nation already reeling from a series of child sex murders that has left at least five girls dead. AP - Brussels

Russians woo Indian PM

Opening the first top-level talks between Russia and India since 1993, President Boris Yeltsin met the Indian Prime Minister, Deve Gowda. With its economy ailing, Russia is looking to Asia for new trade partners and buyers for its weapons and nuclear technologies. AP - Moscow

Cossack alert

In a further sign that a customs union between Russia and three ex-Soviet states is crumbling, Kazakhstan criticised what it said were armed Cossack units placed along the republic's northern border with Russia. The Cossacks reappeared during the Soviet collapse. Reuters - Almaty

The son also rises

The North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, who has yet to take on his late father's titles of president and party leader, had fully inherited his "absolute authority", the official news agency said. Officials have indicated that Mr Kim would formally assume the top posts after the third anniversary of his father's death on 8 July. AP - Tokyo

Oil giants feel heat in Nigeria

Shell said three more of its workers have been hurt in Nigeria, one seriously, and another oil company, Chevron, reported it too has been caught up in a local Nigerian political dispute. Shell said more than 120 of its staff and contractors were still being held by the villagers who overran six oil-flow stations in the western Niger Delta on Saturday. Reuters - London

Boost for new Kremlin minister

The leader of Russia's main liberal opposition party, Yabloko, ruled out joining the new government but offered support for the reformist First Deputy Prime Minister, Boris Nemtsov. Reuters - Moscow

Anger over Zaire refugees

The head of the UN's refugee agency attacked the international community over the Zaire crisis saying the situation was the worst her agency had faced. Sadako Ogata said her staff had been abandoned by the international community. Reuters - Cape Town

East Timor accusation

The East Timor independence leader, Jose Ramos Horta, accused Indonesian troops of using gunfire and bayonets to break up a demonstration in a hotel lobby "under the nose" of a UN peace-keeper. He said 18 young East Timorese were seriously wounded in the weekend clash in the island's capital, Dili, where the UN special envoy, Jamsheed Marker, was staying. Reuters - Geneva

Vietnam executives arrested

Vietnam reported the arrest of two prominent business executives amid concern over loan problems in the banking system arising from failed property speculation. Tang Minh Phung and Lien Khui Thin were held on charges of "taking advantage of confidence to appropriate citizens' and socialist property". Reuters - Hanoi

Risky business

Natural and manmade disasters killed 22,000 people last year and wreaked \$50bn (£31bn) of damage. Only a quarter of this was covered by insurance, according to a study by Swiss Reinsurance Company. AP - Zurich

The EU must now turn towards the east

There was a certain lack of confidence about yesterday's celebrations in Rome of the 40th anniversary of the treaties that gave birth to the European Union.

Despite the EU's manifest achievements in consolidating peace and prosperity across half of Europe, the self-congratulations sounded less convincing than the self-doubts. For perhaps the first time in its history, the EU seems to be in need of a fresh vision, a rejuvenated sense of purpose, a boldness and creativity of spirit of the kind which inspired its formation in 1957.

Part of the explanation for the mood of self-critical introspection lies in the awareness that, on several important policy fronts, the EU has not come up to scratch in recent years. Mass unemployment and low growth are the norms in most member-states, and the best brains in the EU seem to be unable to track the problem. The economic future seems to lie not just with East Asia, as predicted for so long, but also with a rejuvenated United States, whose job creation rate is much superior to the EU's.

In terms of forging an effective common foreign and security policy, too, the EU has fallen short of its own aspirations. Time and again it has been hobbled by its internal divisions – towards former Yugoslavia, the Middle East, Albania and Turkey, to

name just four recent problems. Even the increased use of majority voting in foreign policy matters, which is under discussion at the EU's conference on revising the Maastricht treaty, seems unlikely to do more than improve co-operation on relatively marginal issues.

Yet the most fundamental problem confronting the EU is not the failure of specific institutions or policies. It is the persistent lack of clarity about what should constitute the mission and identity of Europe in an age freed of the great ideological dispute between liberal market democracy and Communism. Within our grasp we have the prospect of a free, undivided, democratic Europe, and yet the EU seems uncertain both about its role in building that Europe, and about which countries should be part of it.

For sure, the EU is committed to eventually absorbing at least 10 former Communist countries – Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the three Baltic states. Yet sometimes the EU seems scared of the implications of this proposed expansion. The countries that benefit most from the Common Agricultural Policy and which lap up the EU's structural funds (transfers of money from rich member-states to poor) seem to be in no hurry to let less well-off central and eastern Europeans feed at the same trough.

Others, at Brussels and inside cer-

tain national governments, grumble that the early admission of the former Communist countries will dilute the EU too much, preventing the emergence of a European political union. Hence, in their eyes, the paramount importance of launching the single currency on schedule in January 1999. Any delay in that project, and it is virtually certain that a coalition of states would emerge with the aim of postponing next year's membership negotiations for some or all of the central and eastern Europeans.

This would be a terrible tragedy, a victory for narrow-mindedness over

imagination and courage. If the EU needs a goal to motivate it in coming years, surely no cause could be more deserving of sustained support than the unification of eastern and western Europe in democracy and peace, the planting and nurturing of prosperity in the east, the healing of ethnic minority conflicts and border disputes – in short, the whole-hearted embrace of an opportunity that has never before arisen in European history?

No less important is the need to clear up misunderstandings about where Europe's borders begin and end. Of crucial significance in this

regard is the position of Turkey, which some EU states want to exclude for ever, but to which Britain and France in particular want to hold open the prospect of membership.

This issue has not only split the EU down the middle, but has also caused a needless dispute with the US, which sees Turkish association with Europe as an essential anchor of its pro-American regional security role.

Given its population of 62 million, its economic underdevelopment, its Kurdish civil war and its problematic record on human rights and military involvement in politics, it is hard to see how Turkey could join the EU as of today. Yet the argument of some EU states – that, as an Islamic country, Turkey can never be part of Europe – is fatuous, ignores the similarities between Turkey and Muslim-populated EU countries, and contradicts the liberal values that the EU should be upholding.

Now of all times is not the moment for the EU to retreat into its shell. It needs to take on challenges, not shy away from them. The turmoil in Albania cried out for energetic EU engagement, not a response that amounted to throwing up the drawbridge and letting Albanians drown in the suffering of an unwanted corner of Europe.

Last June the Czech President, Vaclav Havel, called on Europe "to

rediscover, consciously embrace and in some way articulate its soul". The EU can do these things and, in the process, regain its confidence and redefine its identity. Its mission lies in central and eastern Europe, where with determination, imagination and generosity, it will achieve results every bit as laudable as those it secured in western Europe after 1957.

No smoke without votes

So now we know. Tony Blair has sneered, snuffed, puffed, popped, piped or otherwise ingested or imbued any illegal substance ever in his life. The truth is, we knew that anyway – because if he had done, we can be sure his living room would be a great deal more psychedelically intriguing than it is. But what does his refusal of drugs (since he must many times have been invited to use them during his long-haired, guitar-strumming student days) say about the man? And how will his behaviour play among voters? No doubt decent upstanding Britons, particularly parents, will applaud his firm stand. What young people think may be something else. But then, the worrying thing about them is how many seem disinclined to vote altogether.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's people the Tories dump on the streets

Sir: I feel compelled to add a few instances to the long and deeply moving letter from Graham and Eleanor Wright (24 March), contrasting today's world with pre-Conservative union troubles.

Today the piles of rotting rubbish that one trips over in the street consist merely of discarded people, not (as then) of household waste. (To be fair, the household waste did not ask us for money.)

London Transport will not let clear whether the Wrights' claim that "state monopolies have crumbled" alludes to the physical state of the system or to the fact that disruption of service is no longer a trades-union monopoly but has been made "stable and competent" on a daily basis in the good cause of keeping the "lowest basic fare rate" down.

C CURRIE
London N17

Sir: Graham and Eleanor Wright recall some events of the Seventies that happened under a Labour government. I can recall other images of that decade: strikes and power cuts, three-day working weeks, statutory pay freeze, rising unemployment, rising inflation.

All these happened in the Seventies, but under a Conservative government. Since then the world economy and the Tories have changed. It is sensible to assume that Labour has changed also.

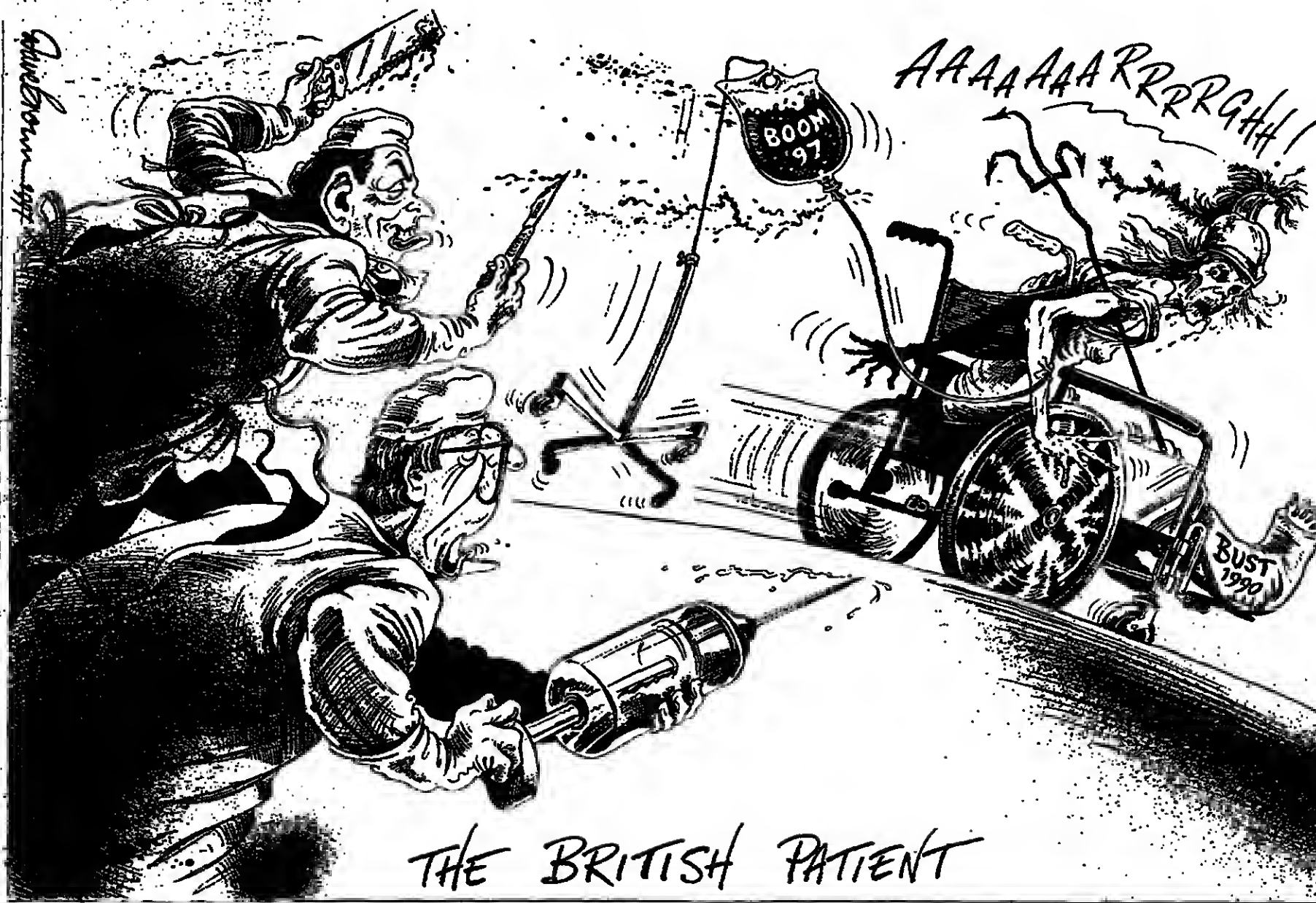
TONY WALLIS
Castleford, West Yorkshire

Sir: Paul Valley's "Hidden virtues of lower-fidelity Liverpool", 11 March, pines wistfully after those bygone days of communal solidarity which he believes to be manifested in the current "struggle" of the Liverpool dockers. If only such social cohesion pervaded the whole of society, then what benefits could be derived by this selfless devotion to the common cause, suggests Mr Valley.

But there is a downside to such "solidarity". The worst consequences of such "social cohesion" were demonstrated to the world between 1939 and 1945 – hence Western society's commitment ever since of the individual and individual rights. The more the individuals in such a group identify with each other, the more they identify non-members of the group as "outsiders", different, inferior.

Every "noble" act of the dismissed Liverpool dockers perceived by national journalists and local clergy alike, is matched by some offence inflicted on the "non-believers". Hence the working dockers are a "scab" to be targeted for ruthless persecution; whose house is fair game for vandalism and arson; whose wife and daughter are threatened with having acid thrown in their faces; whose right to follow a different route to the group does not exist.

Social cohesion and solidarity can be attractive notions to the Western mentality – especially to those in nostalgic mood. The dark side is less appealing. Those who choose to write about it should reflect both sides of the picture. Those of us who are the "outsiders" deserve that much. ERIC LEATHERBARROW
Communications Manager
The Mervyn Duggan and Hartwood Company
Liverpool



Blame parties for 'silly moos'

Sir: We wish to take issue with Polly Toynbee's assertion that because one third of women have not yet decided how to vote they are "floating and dithering" "silly moos" who "don't care about politics" ... and don't want to know ("Women, the forgotten voters", 24 March).

Our research, which she referred to, shows clearly that women care deeply about many pressing social and political issues and that their perspectives on a range of mainstream policy areas are being ignored by all the major parties.

Our report, *What Women Want on Politics*, is based on a survey of 10,000 women's views and detailed analysis of party policy. It suggests that when women are asked what they want, rather than asked to comment on existing political agendas, the issues they prioritise are significantly different from those highlighted by the parties.

Polly Toynbee finds it hard to forgive that many (older) women vote Tory. Yet the more important point (and the one politicians are finding difficult to accept) is that none of the parties is fully reflecting women's concerns, and that asking the way a woman votes does not necessarily say much about what she really cares about.

Moreover, to lay responsibility for the poll tax, Europhobia, privatised fast cars and poverty at women's door does us an injustice when those policies emanate from what remains an overwhelmingly male political system offering an ever-reduced political choice.

The puzzle remains: if politicians are concerned about wooing

female voters, why are they so unwilling to address them directly, and admit publicly that women still face inequalities in many aspects of their private and public lives? SUE TIBBALLS
CHARLOTTE ADCOCK
The Women's Communication Centre
London W6

Sir: A few days ago, my 84-year-old mother said she was not going to bother to vote at the general election. Her seven-year-old grandson, Thomas, rounded on her and asked "Have you never heard of the suffragettes?"

When my mother admitted she had, Tom told her: "Those women tied themselves to railings, went to prison and had all sorts of horrible things done to them so that women like you could vote. So you have got to vote!" My mother muttered something about him being right, and changed the subject. Mrs MARIQUITA BENCH
London SW6

Gas is not a social service

Sir: Andrea Cook (letter, 21 March) argues that the discounting of gas charges for direct debit payers, and the consequent fact that those using pre-payment meters pay more for their gas, is the unacceptable face of competition. I disagree.

It is standard commercial practice for retailers to discount

charges to those who buy large amounts and/or pay by direct debit. It is appropriate that businesses charge customers a price that reflects the true cost of servicing those customers, encouraging an efficiency of operation that benefits us all.

It is emphatically not the job of businesses or their regulators to second-guess the Government on social policy as to which sections of the community are most deserving of subsidy. It is the case that this logic results in higher prices for utility services to those on lower income. Hence the fuel cost element in social security benefits should be increased. PAUL GARDEN
London SW19

Secret EU deals on immigrants

Sir: The transfer of immigration and asylum matters ("Dutch to unveil plan for multi-speed EU", 24 March) to Community competence has important significance for the future protection of human rights in the European Union. Treatment of these issues, presently dealt with in secret, intergovernmental "third pillar" meetings, has been consistently criticised for lack of democratic and judicial accountability.

While the move to "communitise" will potentially provide a better constitutional basis for decisions in this area, the

degree of protection is in the details. Although it is proposed that the European Court of Justice will be competent to adjudicate, there appears to be no proposal to fully involve the European Parliament. As the new title is to include regulation of the free movement of persons, which currently requires parliament's agreement under the co-decision procedures, this would represent a dilution of democratic control.

If there is a serious wish to address the democratic deficit during this Inter-Governmental Conference, empowering the only directly elected institution to play a greater role seems essential. This would be backed by the proposed protocol to provide a legally binding minimum period for national parliaments to ensure effective scrutiny of the same proposals at member-state level. PETER NOORLANDER
Justice
London EC4

Tobacco firms deny 'pay-off'

Sir: You report ("Tories accused of tobacco industry pay-off", 22 March) allegations about the tobacco industry's recent voluntary agreement with the Government on permitted additives. The impression has been given that some sinister deal was done behind closed doors.

There has been no "pay-off", as

ASH describes, and it is scurrilous to suggest such a notion.

The list of permitted additives which has been recently reviewed and updated consists of either natural ingredients, or those which can properly be described as "nature-identical". This list has long been held by the Department of Health, and is in the public domain.

Such added ingredients in the UK are mainly concerned with flavourings for pipe, hand-rolling, and cigar tobaccos, with regular cigarettes here overwhelmingly consisting of nothing more than the basic tobacco, plus some water content, all within the paper tubing, along with its filter.

As for the reference to the Government's failure to reach its 1994 objectives in terms of reducing teenage smoking, it has now been admitted that the targets set were hopelessly unrealistic. Looking back over 12 years of Government research findings, smoking incidence among the under-16s has shown one year's upturn offset by another's downturn. The overall trend has been remarkably stable. CLIVE TURNER
Tobacco Manufacturers' Association
London SW7

Trail of sleaze

Sir: The Government seems to underestimate the importance of sleaze to the electorate. What they haven't understood is that many people regard privatisation and deregulation as the crime. Sleaze is just the evidence. BRIAN GASCOIGNE
London NW3

Israeli bulldozers a world threat

Sir: The bulldozers at Har Homa must stop. They were set in motion to serve the short-term domestic interests of Mr Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, but unless reversed, their effects will spread far beyond the Middle East and risk sending dangerous vibrations worldwide.

President Clinton, as leader of the sole superpower, has courageously enlisted, though with varying degrees of success, the potential of the United States in the promotion of peace in the most troubled areas of the world – Ireland, former Yugoslavia, Africa and the Middle East. The Oslo agreement gave reasonable hope that the peace process might lead to understanding and accommodation between the Arab and Jewish peoples in the Middle East.

The bulldozers bid fair to extinguish that hope. They have strengthened the status of the Arab extremists from Algeria to Afghanistan – see Robert Fisk's dispatch from there (22 March) – and the risk is now high that these will direct terrorism, including Islam's suicide bombers, against any American establishment in the Middle East. The consequent loss of American lives can only strengthen the isolationist sentiment that is never far below the surface in the United States.

All of us in America and Europe who have in the past supported Israel's reasonable interests should now send an urgent and unequivocal message that we are not prepared to see Mr Netanyahu play his domestic politics to the detriment of our worldwide interests. The United States should reinforce this message, as only it can, with the termination of American financial support. ANTONY MOORE
Brill, Buckinghamshire

Trollope tip for Abbey charges

Sir: An article on 21 March states that Westminster Abbey could charge visitors admission for the first time in its history.

In Trollope's *The Warden* (published 1855), the Rev Septimus Harding, having to get through a long day in London, "determined to take sanctuary in Westminster Abbey, so he again went there in an omnibus, and finding that the doors were not open for morning service, he paid his twopenny, and went in as a sightseer" (Chapter 15).

Trollope would not have invented such a charge. The Westminster authorities can claim that a precedent has been established. A TILLOTSON
Cambridge

Baker bites back

Sir: Having been around the showbiz block long enough to know that any interview is at the mercy of the premeditation and stylistic limitations of the journalist involved, I none the less find it depressing that my quotes – even inaccurate ones – are still reported in hoary "cockney-ese" ("A few quiet words with Danny Baker", 24 March).

Yes, I talk with a south London accent. But would your Deborah Ross be so phonetically pedantic if that accent were French, Russian or, heaven forbid, Asian? DANNY BAKER
London SE5

Makers of their own tragedy

Orlando Figes has written an account of the Russian revolution that spares no one: not the old regime, nor the Communists, nor the people. Andrew Marr spoke to the author about history's lessons

"The state, however big, cannot make people equal or better human beings. All it can do is treat its citizens equally, and strive to ensure that their free activities are directed towards the general good. After a century dominated by the twin totalitarianisms of Communism and Fascism, one can only hope that this lesson has been learned. As we enter the 21st century, we must try to strengthen our democracy, both as a source of freedom and of social justice, lest the disadvantaged and the disillusioned reject it again."

These are among the concluding words of a vast, hugely impressive history of the Russian revolution, *A People's Tragedy*, by Orlando Figes, which today won the 1997 WH Smith literary award. It tells the story of the greatest political upheaval of modern times, from the decay of Tsarism in the 1890s to its effective re-establishment under the monster Stalin in the Twenties. And it comes with a sting in the tail.

This is a remarkable book for many reasons. It is the fruit of years spent in the archive of the October Revolution and the Communist Party archives in Moscow. Figes got to know the key archives when they first began to open to outsiders in the late Eighties, and sat among the journalistic scavengers who came and went looking for spy stories.

Unlike them, he befriended the underpaid Russian archivists and emerged with a grisly but fascinating treasure trove.

Out of that trove, he has made a book which can change the way we think about Russia and what is happening there today. It is a history studded with gleaming, vivid personal stories and vignettes. First intended to help general readers through the book, they became essential.

Though this is grim stuff, there are hilarious and poignant moments. For instance, there is a glorious account of the Bolsheviks going to open talks with the invading Germans in 1917. They decide to bring representatives of the Russian workers, soldiers, sailors, peasants and women with them for propaganda purposes. On the way to Petrograd's Warsaw railway station, they realise they have forgotten to bring a peasant.

What to do? As their car speeds through the city, they pass a bearded old man trudging home, pretend to give him a lift, and drag him off to Brest-Litovsk to make peace with the Germans. So the peasant, who was only trying to get home to his village, finds himself sitting drinking claret in Brest-Litovsk with Prince Ernst von Hohenlohe and discussing the future of mankind.



A chilling picture of cannibalism during the Russian revolution, uncovered by Orlando Figes (right). Main photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Throughout, Figes uses key observers who act as a kind of Greek chorus. There is Sergei Semenov, the idealistic and radical peasant leader, who migrates to the city under the Tsar, endures abuse and hardship trying to improve his village's lot, and ends up murdered by jealous rivals in 1922. Above all, there is Gorky, who had a love-hate relationship with Lenin, courageously abusing him for his murders and repression, surviving the horrors of starving Petrograd, fleeing abroad – and who eventually returned to be exploited,

and perhaps murdered, by Stalin. Gorky's hopes and disillusion haunt the book.

All of that would have been remarkable enough. But this is also a history that goes beyond the conventional accounts of the revolution. We have grown used to the leftist version, in which Lenin is the betrayed, Christ-like hero and Stalin the Hitler nemesis; and to rival histories from right-wingers which emphasise the reforms being carried on under the last Tsar – implying that, but for the Bolsheviks and some misfortunes in the First World War, Russia would have evolved into a benign, Western-style democracy.

Figes' thesis is bolder and less comfortable. His political angle is hard to discern from the book. It is certainly not right wing. No sentimental supporter of Tsar Nicholas could survive Figes' account of the old regime's anti-Semitism, brutality and bone-headed stupidity. The democrats and liberals were better people but awful politicians, who, as Figes told me, saw the revolution as if it was France in 1789, and made every wrong turning. Kerenky comes across as a Napoleonic huffoon; the White generals as

hopeless; and Lenin, whom Figes clearly loathes, as a cruel if brilliant monster.

Figes doesn't think Lenin will ever regain his pre-Eighties reputation among leftist intellectuals, as the full story of his role and savage views spills out of the Moscow and St Petersburg archives. Nor does Trotsky emerge as his Western admirers would wish; the gourmandising and dandyish orator was not as important in the civil war, or in the Bolshevik party, as was thought.

So where is Figes coming from? When I met him yesterday he described himself to me as a Labour Party supporter and "a bit of a Tony Blair man", though he confessed, when it came to the revolution, to being mildly pro-Menshevik. But his main intention was to overturn old perceptions of how the revolution happened and what it meant, he insists.

Perhaps the most radical departure is that he portrays the Russian people themselves as a main protagonist in their own tragedy: the creators of anti-Jewish pogroms, of massacres, of civil war atrocities, enthusiastic participants in the

Red terror, even – as famine stalked Russia – cannibals who ate children. The ordinary level of peasant village cruelty, the peasants' thirst for rough justice and their enthusiasm for authoritarian, Tsar-like leadership are constant themes in the 800-page book.

This has been misunderstood by some reviewers, Figes says, as anti-Russian bigotry. "I am trying to grapple with the problem of violence, which was central to the revolution." The Russians thought of democracy as being synonymous with the victory of the labouring people. Once that was established, the problem of what to do with the rest, the bourgeoisie, was inescapable. Peasants would have happily turned them into peasants, but they were also vulnerable to the bloodthirsty rhetoric of the Bolsheviks.

So this is a story, to adopt another historian's title (about Scotland, as it happens) of "no gods and precious few heroes". Huge in scope, brilliant in vignette, dark and implacable in theme, it is a modern masterpiece. But does it matter now? Has it, really, any messages for the blunder, safer-seeming world 80 years on? Figes sees strong and ominous

parallels between the Russia of 1917 and the Russia that has emerged since the 1991 toppling of Communism. Then as now, politics was mostly about being against people and ideas – against Kerenky, against the Mensheviks, against Yeltsin, against Zhirinov – rather than for anything specific. Then and now, "Russia seems unable to form a stable democratic and civic politics which doesn't fall into corruption and the alienation of ordinary people".

Then as now, the toppling of the old order leads to utterly naive and over-optimistic beliefs about the future. For many in 1917, as Figes puts it, "Socialism and democracy were magical words – there was a euphoric belief that by becoming the freest democracy in the world, Russia would suddenly become Western, that everything would be better – people would be richer, drunkenness would stop, people would stop beating their wives. The same after 1991 – a lot of people thought, Russia's a democracy, it's going to be Western, life's going to be much better."

And then in Russia, as in many other countries, recently Albania, the reality came as a sickening shock, a betrayal. In

conversation, Figes is scathing about the West's failure to offer the right help at the crucial time. Instead of focusing on the need carefully to protect the welfare state while democracy was created, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan sent Russia "those monetarists who said that what Russia needs is mass unemployment and a shock economic programme".

So we screwed it up? I ask. "We screwed it up. It was partly that political scientists have got no knowledge of history – for them history started 20 minutes ago – and economists are the same, on the whole. So the people who went in and advised the Reagan-Thatcher alliance on our behalf had no knowledge of Russian cultural (or any other) history, and certainly didn't expect a Russian backlash of the kind any historian could have warned about."

Figes does not exonerate the Western left for what has happened: Russian studies people were generally too close to the Soviet regime, he argues, and overestimated its capacity for reform. "So Thatcher and Reagan had to go to people who had never had any contact with Soviet society and had turned their backs on it."

This, it seems to me, is Figes' central assertion about history. This is why historians matter, and why we should honour the people in disorganised archives who burrow through individual life stories and weave them into bigger books, and remember what made people murderers and looters, sadists and cannibals, not so very long ago.

I began this with a quotation that is worth finishing. Figes continues by warning that the emerging societies of the ex-Soviet bloc may not become democratic: "This is no time for the sort of liberal-democratic triumphalism with which the collapse of the Soviet Union was met in many quarters. Reformed (and not-so-reformed) Communists may be expected to do well electorally – and may even be voted back into power – as long as the mass of ordinary people remain alienated from the political system and feel themselves excluded from the benefits of emergent capitalism."

Perhaps even more worrying, authoritarian nationalism has begun to fill the vacuum left by the collapse of Communism... their violent rhetoric, with its calls for discipline and order, its angry condemnation of the inequalities produced by the growth of capitalism, and its xenophobic rejection of the West, is itself adapted from the Bolshevik tradition. The ghosts of 1917 have not been laid to rest."

No one who has worked their way through this extraordinary book could help but be a little chilled by that. His view of Russia is bleak, I suggested yesterday. "I think it is bleak. I'm afraid there is no other way of putting it."

'A People's Tragedy: the Russian revolution 1917-1924' by Orlando Figes (Jonathan Cape, £20).

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Offer also applies to spouses

Enter His Lordship, with a roll of trousers

Before judges are obliged to reveal whether they attention should be paid to the most extraordinary trial which is going on in the High Court at the moment, in which a Mr Sidney Minghella is accused of attempted murder. Here is an extract from yesterday's proceedings...

Judge: Before we go any further, may I say how very much I have enjoyed the performance so far of the counsel for the defence?

Counsel for the Defence: May I say in turn how much I have learnt from your Lordship's conduct of the case? Your lordship seems imbued with wisdom.

Judge: Hmm. Are you a mason by any chance?

Defence: Yes, m'Lord, I am.

Judge: What a coincidence! So am I.

Defence: Yes, m'Lord, I know. (Smiles and winks ingratiatingly at the judge.)

Counsel for the Prosecution: Objection, m'Lord!

Judge: What objection?

Prosecution: It is quite outrageous that you, m'Lord, and the counsel for the defence are

building up this improper relationship as fellow masons! This can only be prejudicial to the case!

Judge: How ridiculous. Are you a freemason?

Prosecution: Yes, of course.

Judge: There you are, then. We're all masons, on both sides. You are as free to chum up as he is. No prejudice involved at all.

Prosecution: But there must be prejudice! It's inevitable!

Judge: What rubbish! If you had two football teams playing each other, do you think a player on one side would be more gentle in the tackle with an opposing player just because they were both members of – I don't know, the Playboy Club?

Prosecution: The Playboy Club ceased trading years ago, m'Lord.

Judge: Did it? Well, that certainly explains why it always seems to be closed when I go there. What do footballers belong to nowadays?

Prosecution: Stringfellow's, I believe, m'Lord.

Judge: Well, there you are, then. Carry on! Who was interrogating the accused?

Prosecution: I was.



Miles Kington

Judge: Get on with it, then. We don't hang about in the masons, you know. Time is money.

Defence: Money is money! All three! (Charging together) Ra ra ra! Masons all! Backs together, we stand or fall!

Roll your trousers, shake your hand, all together we fall or stand! (The jury stand and applaud this nifty bit of chorus work.)

Jury Foreman: May I inquire, m'Lord, on behalf of the jury,

if that was a rather exciting bit of masonic ritual or simply part of the evidence which we can safely ignore?

Judge: Are you not a mason?

Foreman: No, m'Lord.

Judge: Good heavens. Come and see me at adjournment time and get a membership application form.

Foreman: Yes, m'Lord. I am a member of Stringfellow's, if that is any help.

Judge: Well, perhaps we can swap application forms in the break.

Prosecution: My Lord, this is quite intolerable! You are now forming attachments to people who are only potential masons and not members at all yet!

Judge: Shows my impartiality, I think. Now, carry on with the cross-questioning for heaven's sake. That's what you are paid for. Paid far too much, in my opinion, but that's another matter.

Prosecution: Yes, m'Lord. Now, defendant, your name is Sidney Minghella?

Defendant: Yes, it is.

Prosecution: Are you any relation to Anthony Minghella?

Defendant: Who?

Prosecution: He is a distinguished film director.

Defendant: Never heard of him.

Judge: It's a very unusual name, Minghella.

Defendant: Not in Milan, it's not. The Milan phone book is stuffed full of Minghellas.

Prosecution: Are you in fact from Milan?

Defendant: No. I'm from Bromley in Kent.

Prosecution: Hmm. And are you in fact a mason?

Defendant: Yes. (Court buzzes with excitement.)

Prosecution: Ah-ha! And when did you join the masons?

Defendant: I didn't join. I trained to be a mason.

Prosecution: You trained? How can you train to be a mason?

Defendant: Two years' art college, two years' stone-carving, two years with a firm of undertakers.

Judge: Good Lord. Do you mean you're a REAL mason, carving stone and all that?

Defendant: Yes. I'm a proper mason. Not like you lot.

Judge: I shall have to have time to think about this. Court adjourned!

More of this disquieting case tomorrow, I hope.

Global floaters versus the local voters

There are two groups of people — one which does not vote at all, the other which votes only in insignificant numbers — whose views are attracting inordinate attention in this election. The first are the men (it is always men) who control foreign companies with investments here, which we as a country wish to continue to attract: companies such as Nissan and Toyota. The second are rich individuals who might up sticks and leave, and whom we wish to retain: British celebs like Frank Bruno and Lord Lloyd-Webber, of course, but also the many foreign residents who have chosen to locate in the UK.



Hamish McRae

Multi-national companies, and clever individuals, can go anywhere. They must be wooed to stay in Britain

The fact that their views should be front-page news is testimony to a remarkable shift in power in the world economy. To be successful in economic terms, countries have to make themselves attractive to these two immensely powerful global baronies: international financial capital, and international human capital. Politicians accustomed to fabricating their policies to be attractive to domestic voters, suddenly find two new constituencies to which they have to appeal.

The constituency of the international company may seem a familiar one. After all, we have had Ford and General Motors operating here for three-quarters of a century. But in the last 10 years the power balance has changed both in perception and in reality.

We perceive that inward investment is much more important, because we are aware of the extent to which we relied on it throughout the Eighties to revitalise the economy. In addition, it is more important because multinationals are much more mobile.

Of course, you cannot lift a car factory and plant it in another country, but whereas opening a foreign plant used to be a rare event, now it is completely normal. A car firm manages a string of factories around the world like a portfolio, shutting one in one country, opening another in another. If this is true for cars, the largest consumer item to be mass-manufactured, it is much more true for newer products, things such as PCs or chips, where the efficient unit size for a factory is smaller. And the more mobile investment capital becomes, the harder countries have to work to attract it.

Similar changes have taken place in human capital. Skilled people, particularly Britons who could move easily to Canada, Australia and the States, have long been quite mobile. The "brain drain" was a familiar lament during the Sixties and Seventies. But there have been two new trends here as well.

One is that the UK has become a much more significant importer of clever people — or, at least, people valued highly in the marketplace, which is not quite the same thing. There has been a flood of foreign talent attracted into financial services, for example, and the growth of London as a media and communications centre has created a string of media-related international jobs. The pool of

foreign professionals in the UK is enormous. When the European Bank opened in the City, it had to fill several hundred professional jobs with non-Britons, divided into various national quotas. It found it could fill 70 per cent of those jobs with people already based in London.

The other trend is the growth of a new breed of global citizens, people for whom choice of residence is little more than a convenience. Some are celebrities: open the pages of *Hello!* and you catch a glimpse of that end of the market: Americans sharing with readers their country house in Gloucestershire. Britons with one in Malibu, French living in Geneva, and so on. Others are international business people, the sort who read the *International Herald Tribune*. I realised that *IHT* readers were a breed apart when filling out a subscriber questionnaire on Monday. One of the boxes you had to tick was whether you had a private jet and, if so, was it owned personally, or through the company?

This phenomenon of the growth of a new elite, independent of the rest of the country, was noted by Robert Reich, the university professor and friend of President Clinton who became labour secretary in Clinton's first administration. In his book *The Work of Nations*, Reich argued that this new elite was cutting itself off from the rest of the country. These people would intermarry, send their children to the best schools, pass on their wealth, and thereby entrench their position even more securely.

Reich saw this principally in US terms, but it is more interesting as an international issue. At least while these people had to stay in one country, governments could extract more taxes from them and redistribute some of the money, as Reich argued they should. But if the people just move, then it becomes harder to call for large-scale redistribution. Besides, countries need not just this new elite's money; perhaps even more, they need its skills.

To acknowledge this is uncomfortable. It is much easier to say that we should not be relying so much on foreign inward investment, or more snobbishly, that if Lord Lloyd-Webber wants to go (and it is not clear that he does) his departure would be to the cultural benefit of the country. It is tough to have to acknowledge that politicians, trained to construct policies that will appeal to voters, have also to construct policies which appeal to non-voters.

But, from the tone of the political debate, you can see that politicians are aware of the need to broaden their appeal. Labour has sought not just to reassure British taxpayers, not just to reassure foreign investors, but also to reassure foreign nationals who have come to work or live in the UK. For though the new mobility of financial and human capital in one sense diminishes a national politician's power, it also creates an opportunity. Create a climate attractive to both forms of capital, and the world will bear a path to your door.

Why teaching is sexy in the States

by Ann Treneman

Catherine Edwards thought she wanted to be a paediatrician and then, at the age of 19, she took a class at UCLA (University of California at Los Angeles) called Education 180. "I realised that the reason I wanted to be a paediatrician was to help other people, especially children, and that I could accomplish this by being a teacher."

She is not alone. After decades in the wilderness, teaching is once again a profession of choice in America and the likes of Ms Edwards, now 21, are on the cutting edge of a trend that few dared to predict. "Teaching is hot!" exclaims Arthur Levine, president of Teachers' College, Columbia University, in New York City. Admission applications at the top college are up 54 per cent on last year and 115 per cent over three years ago.

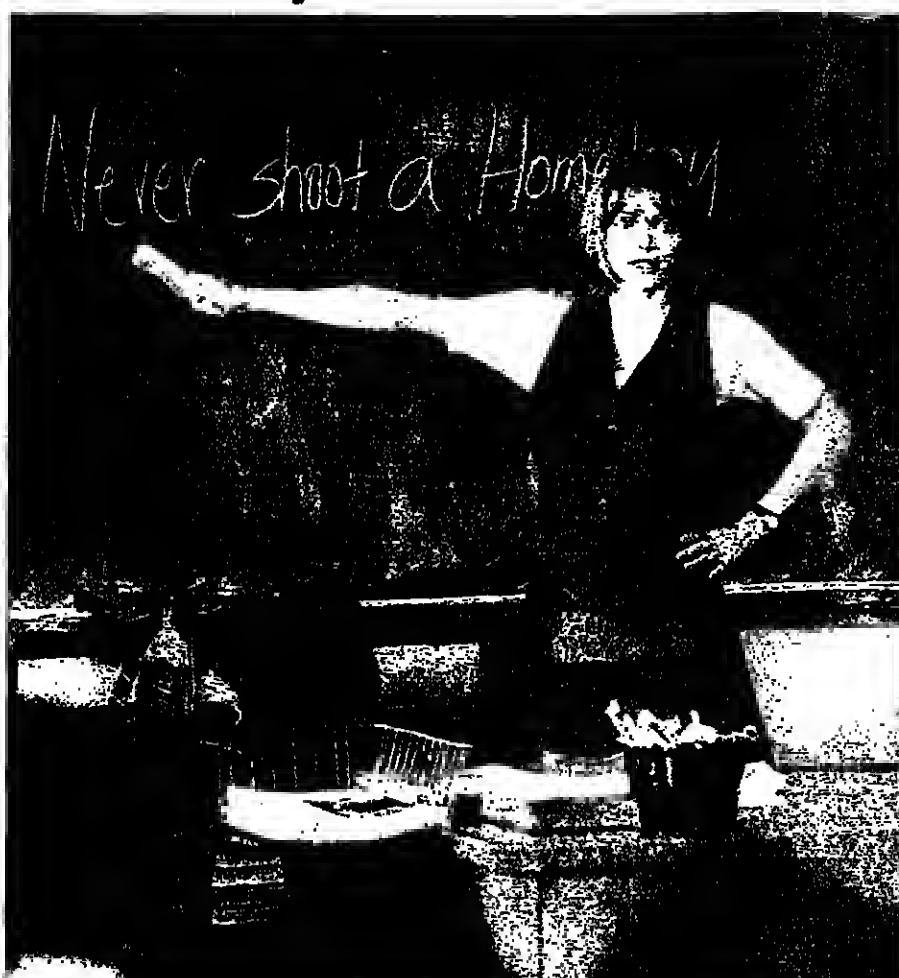
That story is repeated, though less dramatically, at teaching programmes around the US. The boom is being fuelled by a new spirit of idealism among the young, and also among forty-somethings who are starting second careers. What some people are calling the most progressive mood since the Sixties is well-timed: there is a national shortage of teachers. So, could it happen in Britain too?

Certainly some factors are similar. Interviews with undergraduates in America show that the Me Generation is ancient history and the notorious Generation X is fading fast. In its place is the We Generation and these young people are driven not by money or status but by idealism and the desire to give something back.

"This is a generation in which more than six out of 10 students are now involved in community service," says Mr Levine. "This generation is very interested in politics, but not national or international politics. They are interested in local politics. They do not believe in national leaders. They don't believe in government. They don't believe in most of our social institutions. But they do believe they can make a difference in their community, in their schools, as a teacher."

He quotes one student from the University of Colorado, who captured the mood: "For my generation teaching is the equivalent of the Peace Corps."

Rather than teach the poor of Africa or dig a well in Guatemala, Catherine Edwards aims to teach special education in her own country. She talks



Teacher as local heroine: Michelle Pfeiffer takes to the classroom in *Dangerous Minds*

In America, the 'Me Generation' is giving way to the 'We Generation' as more people opt to put something back into society

with huge enthusiasm about the revolution taking place in classrooms now dominated by group and computer work.

"No one is that fired up about standing in front of a group talking a bunch of mumbo-jumbo that they are not going to remember in a week. But there is a lot of excitement about interaction and technology."

But what about the money? A paediatrician manages to help people and get rich. The average salary of a teacher in America is about \$38,000 (£25,000). "I have run into some criticism with people saying 'I'm wasting my education and asking why I'm entering such a non-lucrative field,'" says Ms

Edwards. "In my opinion these people are missing the boat. That is not what it is all about. The phrase you hear over and over again from people who want to be teachers is: 'I want to make a difference'. There is no one better person to turn on a light bulb in a kid's head than a teacher and to be able to have that kind of profound impact is really incredible."

Like many of her generation, Ms Edwards has already done her fair share of volunteering, and America's largest survey of 18-year-old college students shows that the volunteer spirit has never been so infectious. "We've asked about it for 12 years and have seen an increase since 1989. Currently 71.8 per

cent of students say they do frequent volunteer work," says the UCLA survey director Linda Sax. The study also showed the highest interest for 23 years in becoming a teacher.

"The interest in teaching seems to be prompted by the same kind of concerns that we see as to why they are volunteering — concern for the community and about education in general," says Ms Sax. "They do not think they can change larger society but they are trying to do what they can to change what they know, which is their community."

A similar trend is being charted here in Britain where the notion of "society" has been on distinctly rocky ground

since it was banished in one sound-bite from Mrs Thatcher. For 15 years the Henley Centre for Forecasting has been tracking opinion to see whether we believe that the individual or the community comes first. "Throughout the Eighties and the early Nineties more people thought that 'individual' was the way ahead but we've seen a change-over in the last few years and a move towards community interest," says Henley's Meg Abdy.

There is a trust vacuum when it comes to traditional institutions such as national government or the legal system. "People are tending to put more credence now in the people they know and the people around them."

Britain has also seen an increase in volunteering and here, too, there is a shortage of teachers. But unlike America, there has been a drop in applications and youthful idealism seems confined to areas such as the green movement. But is it possible that the Swamps of this world might find themselves in front of a classroom?

Britain's teachers are not ready for this question. Their answers are battle weary and have a Sisyphian theme. "What we have here is an almost perpetual denigration of teaching by politicians and commentators with more and more blame for the ills of society being landed at teachers' doors," says a National Union of Teachers spokeswoman. "There is a tremendous tendency to undermine the profession."

Teacher bashing was and still is a popular sport in America too but the positive news has provided a much needed counterpoint. After all, applications are up, and not only from those who could not make the grade elsewhere. "Another huge change is that the young people now entering teaching are coming from some of the best colleges and universities in the country," says Mr Levine.

The profession is also attracting other kinds of winners. Mr Levine talks of one student who was older than most of the professors.

"This was someone who had worked his whole life on Wall Street, and what he had finally decided was that he had made his money and now he wanted to have a job that was socially satisfying."

Catherine Edwards knows the feeling: she wants to make a difference too. It is the Nineties, after all, and she is in the best of company.

Marriage, divorce and the bottom line

It is in affairs of the heart, in falling in and out of love, in their grand passions and bitter hatreds, that human beings are at their most emotional and least calculating. Surely?

Well, not according to economists. The Mr Spocks of the social sciences have discovered that financial calculations play a decisive role in the messy, painful and disruptive business of divorce. Rich men are less likely than poorer ones to divorce — because their wives cling on to their incomes. Rich women are more likely to ditch their husbands, saying, like Garbo, "I want to be alone" — because they can afford to.

The tale this week of a wealthy doctor on a basic £92,000 a year whose wife had left him for her lower is unusual, according to an analysis presented to the annual conference of the Royal Economic Society yesterday. It was Anne Hart who moved out of the family house and started the divorce proceedings against her husband, David. The more normal pattern would have been for him to leave his wife, netted by another woman for his high salary as a GP, police surgeon and prison doctor.

A money motive did emerge, however, when David disappeared to Spain, having emptied the joint bank account and run up a £10,000 overdraft. He told a local newspaper: "It was imperative for money to be invested abroad, to keep it away from my wife."

The three Bristol University economists speaking at yesterday's conference (in romantic Stoke-on-Trent) reckon that money always goes to the heart of the matter. There have been enormous social changes during the past two decades that go a long way to



Diane Coyle

Rich women are more likely to ditch their husbands. Rich men are less likely to divorce

explaining patterns of marriage and divorce — fewer of the former and more of the latter, on both sides of the Atlantic. But earnings turn out to make a big difference to these most personal of decisions. The economists' taxonomy goes as follows. If you are rich, you will have less need for a marriage partner to keep you in the style to which you want to be accustomed. On the other hand, having a lot of money makes you a good catch. The two effects work in opposite directions: you need potential part-

ners less, but they want you more.

Equally, when married to a rich partner, you will be more reluctant to give up their income by divorcing them. The problem is that they will be an attractive prize for potential rivals. There are countervailing pressures.

Data on marital histories confirm the importance of money. For one thing, the higher somebody's income and the better educated they are — whether male or female — the later they are likely to marry in the first place. Also, the big difference between men and women turns out to apply to high-income earners.

The balance between being a good catch and being financially self-supporting is different for the sexes. Rich men, once caught, tend to stay caught. They get married later, but stay married longer, on average, than low-earning males. Rich women also marry later, but once trapped are more likely than their poorer sisters to bail out. For women, high earnings buy freedom and make marriage an optional extra, in financial terms at any rate.

Mrs Hart would have done well to think about her financial position before letting passion sweep her away. She has put the £250,000 family house up for sale, but is reported to have said: "I am ruined."

The normal human reaction to this particular divorce, about as messy as can be, seems to have come from Mr Hart's mother. Hecateored about David's abandonment of his financial responsibilities to keep his wife and pay the children's private school fees, she told her daughter-in-law to "roast in hell". For the penalties beyond this world, there is no cost-benefit analysis.

Football hero in honesty shock

It was a seminal moment in British sport. Maybe it was a seminal moment for British society.

On Monday night Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool and England striker, was awarded a penalty in a top-of-the-table clash against Arsenal after being apparently tripped by the Arsenal and England goalkeeper David Seaman. Then something happened, something so bizarre it has no precedent in the modern game.

Fowler was honest. He turned to the ref (and to the TV cameras) and mouthed "No, no," waving dismissively that it was not really a penalty. He had simply tripped. Seaman had not touched him.

I was reminded of Tom Stoppard's comedy *Professional Foul*, which mixes football and philosophy. A philosopher asks a professional footballer why players from opposing teams always appeal for a throw-in when "every bloody time" the player who actually kicked it out of play knows that he did. What are the moral and philosophical boundaries between lousiness and honesty and simply wanting to gain an advantage for your team? With penalties, soccer etiquette — or lack of it — has been even clearer. You always contest a penalty award against you. You never dispute a penalty award in your favour. Cricketers may walk but footballers never, never talk. Yet Fowler did, or tried to. And then the action became surreal enough to give philosophers an entire seminar. So unprecedented was Fowler's honesty that no one knew how to handle it.

The ref who had blown his whistle and pointed to the spot was expecting the usual clamour of protests from the Arsenal players. But a protest from the player about to take the penalty? He hadn't been taught about that at referee school. The next day he said simply that he hadn't heard Fowler say anything. "He obviously didn't hear him waving then," noted one commentator acerbically. For Fowler's gesticulating itself spoke volumes.

The ref's temporary deafness and blindness was not shared by Sky's commentary team. "He surely can't be telling the ref he wasn't fouled," said the commentator incredulously. The expert match analyst, ex-Scotland international Andy Gray, urged: "Fowler's manager should give him a clip round the ear," justifying this philosophical treatise by adding that Fowler's gesture could have cost his side the Premiership title. So much for the regular solemn statements by television commentators that footballers must set a better example to schoolchildren.

On the field the drama was coming to its climax with Fowler's own catharsis. His honesty was to be put to the ultimate test. The man who had tried to disclaim the penalty was, the fates had decreed, Liverpool's penalty taker. He kicked the ball "sheepishly", as *The Independent's* match report put it, and it was saved by Seaman. But the fates are not so easily satisfied. The ball bounced off Seaman's torso to an oncoming Liverpool colleague, Jason McAteer, one of life's logical positivists, who fired it unhesitatingly into the goal.

Soccer is now firmly placed alongside politics in the twilight area of morality where to be open and honest is seen only as poor tactics. Here fortuitously (to use a word beloved of soccer commentators) in the middle of an election campaign was a chance for sport to preach to politicians, to show that there are values beyond gaining a temporary advantage. That a code of private morality must remain constant in the public arena, even in gladiatorial arenas like Westminster or Highbury. Our heroes can tell the truth, our role models can to themselves be true. For one brief moment it seemed a possibility.

No longer. But salute Robbie Fowler for introducing a moment's honesty into soccer, even if it did confound his peers. Just one question though: Robbie, if you knew it shouldn't have been a penalty, why didn't you simply fire the kick wide?

David Lister



See the sport on TV last night?

Last night on Channel 4 News a new report highlighted the barbaric sport of bear baiting in Pakistan.

It described how day after day, bears are dragged into a bloody arena to face pairs of cross-bred bull terriers. Each bear has had his teeth ripped out and claws blunted, leaving him at the mercy of the dogs' vicious teeth. The trainer won't let him be killed, but the bear doesn't know this. Over and over again, he is fighting for his life.

Over 2,000 bear-baitings take place each year in Pakistan, despite the fact that they are now banned by law.

Our Liberty campaign frees captive bears and returns them to a safe natural habitat, campaigns to enforce laws protecting bears, and fights ignorance with training and education.

Please help us end this barbaric 'sport'.

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obituaries / gazette

Harold Melvin

Harold Melvin was one of the pioneers of the Philly Sound which now epitomises the mid-Seventies.

Under his guidance, the Blue Notes, a vocal group also boasting at the time the talents of Teddy Pendergrass, had several worldwide hits like "If You Don't Know Me By Now", "The Love I Lost", "Wake Up Everybody" and "Don't Leave Me This Way". But Melvin had been involved in music from a much earlier age and was still singing until a paralyzing stroke put him in hospital a few months ago.

He was born in Philadelphia in 1941. The young Harold sang doo-wop on street corners with his childhood friends. They took up the name Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes and released the "If You Love Me" single on the local Josie label in 1956. The group played the local club scene, recording intermittently for small labels like Brook, Val-De ("My Hero" in 1960), Landa ("Get Out" in 1964) and Uni ("This Time Will Be Different" in 1969). They also cut a few tracks for Chess (with Luther Dixon) and the TK label (with Henry Stone). The Blue Notes constantly changed line-up and were very much Melvin's group, though he didn't always appear on stage with them. Rather, he choreographed their routines as well as arranging and composing some of their material, though they mostly sang standards and show tunes when performing in supper clubs.

By 1970, Melvin was the only original member left, and Teddy Pendergrass, who had joined from behind the drumkit to

take up lead vocals in a line-up which also comprised Lloyd Parkes, Lawrence Brown and Bernard Wilson. His characteristic vocal stylings attracted the attention of Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, two veteran songwriters and producers who had just set up the Philadelphia International operation and signed a distribution deal with Columbia. In 1972, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes joined a roster which would soon include the O'Jays, Billy Paul and the Three Degrees and take over from Tamla Motown as the sound of mid-Seventies America.

After finding minor success with "I Miss You", they recorded "If You Don't Know Me By Now", a Gamble and Huff composition full of passion and yearning. It reached the American and British Top 10 in late 1972 and sold over two million copies. The song became a classic and was a popular choice for filmmakers trying to give a flavour of the period. It was revived by Simply Red in 1989.

The Philly Sound ruled discotheques the world over and, in 1973, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes hit paydirt again with "The Love I Lost". Rich orchestrations and catchy choruses also ensured that "Satisfaction Guaranteed", "Where Are All My Friends" and "Bad Luck" were dance-floor fillers, while at the same time making pointed comments on the state of America. "Wake Up, Everybody", another political plea for peace and harmony penned by Gene McFadden, John Whitehead and Victor Castorphen and produced by Gamble and Huff, saw them back in the pop charts in 1976.

However Teddy Pendergrass,

who had the lion's share of vocal duties, was becoming uncomfortable with his position. People assumed he was Harold Melvin but he was just one of the Blue Notes and his financial rewards reflected that status. A billing adding "featuring Teddy Pendergrass" to the group monicker assuaged his worries for a while but, in 1977, he decided to go solo, scoring major hits in America with "The Whole Town's Laughing At Me" and "Close the Door", soul ballads of the late-night variety.

Before leaving the Blue Notes, Pendergrass had recorded "Don't Leave Me This Way" which battled it out with Thelma Houston's version in early 1977. Nine years later, the disco anthem was successfully brought up to date by the Communards, featuring Jimmy Somerville.

Having replaced Pendergrass with David Ebo, the Blue Notes left Philadelphia International for ABC. "Reaching for the World" was a R&B hit but the group's popularity was on the wane and, when various records on Source, MCA, Philly World flopped, they returned to the night-club and cabaret circuit which was their original home. Two years ago, they appeared in London at the Greco Room of the Café Royal. By then, as all those years ago, Harold Melvin was the only original member. The hits were long gone, but some of the magic sparkle was still there.

Pierre Perrone

Harold James Melvin, singer, composer and arranger: born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 24 May 1941; married Ovelia McDaniels (five children); died Philadelphia 24 March 1997.



If you don't know me by now: Melvin (front right) and the Blue Notes

Photograph: Gerns / Redferns

James Stevens Cox

I first got to know James Stevens Cox when, many years ago, my family handled the sale of his hairdressing collection, writes Edward Maggs [further to the obituary by Nicolas Barker, 18 March]. This involved a vast array of hardware, including bigoudis, curling irons and hairpieces (sadly no merkins, although he was fully trained in their manufacture and delighted in retailing their history). The largest items were an extraordinary and lethal-looking late 18th-century hair-drier fuelled by burning coals and looking, with its almost completely enclosed helmet, more like an instrument of torture, and a first-generation permanent waving machine.

The latter would not have been out of place in an episode of *Dr Who* as a device for sucking people's brains out, and Jim explained its significance not only in the history of hair-dressing but also in his family's prosperity: they had the first such machine in Bristol, and made a fortune with it at a time when you could charge 30s for a wave. Within six months, the going rate was down to 1s 6d with a fish supper thrown in.

In a suitably bizarre ending, the collection was sold quickly to a "Museum of Femininity" sponsored by a Japanese manufacturer of ladies' underwear, the transaction held up only by panicky phone calls from the Tokyo docks as customs agents tried to work out what on earth these machines were.

The profits from the perming machine would not have been wasted, for Jim was legendarily careful with his money. He was certainly no miser in the mould of Arnold Bennett's bookseller Henry Earleford, but he exercised a thorough disdain for the trivia that eat up so much of most people's incomes.

This individuality was seemingly untrammelled, and he was partial to unconventional theories of life: at one time, having studied the subject thoroughly and concluded that these contained everything necessary for physical health, he fed his family while on a trip in the US (travelling by Greyhound bus) entirely on oranges and Complan. An even more alarming dietary fad was a taste for mealworms: having observed how his toucans thrived on a lozenge-in-full, and passing them around as a *digestif* after dinner.

Another belief was in the destructive qualities of soap when applied to the human skin, and he was happy to boast of not having applied this dangerous substance to his face for 30 years, instead placing his faith in the unguent qualities of almond oil. One couldn't argue, since his complexion indeed remained remarkably smooth.

All of these mannerisms were displayed with the greatest good-humour and self-knowledge. His rather Old Testament appearance and booming voice gave a weight to otherwise slack jokes: walking along the scaffolding we saw a fairly ample woman in a bikini, and his delivery of what may have been an old chestnut — "When ever I see a lady like that, I want to tell her, Madam, there is a divinity that shapes our ends — was as perfect as that of any professional comedian.

His bookkeeping career included handling the manuscript of *Under Milk Wood* for Douglas Cleeverson, who had retrieved it from the Fitzrovia pub where Dylan Thomas left it, and he was said at one time to have had three Shakespeare quartos, among the rarest books in English literature. One cannot often honestly say, "We will not see his like again", but, as Nest Cleeverson (Douglas's widow) added: "We've never seen his like before."

of their names, with Miriam Camp, who had served with considerable distinction in the United States Foreign Service. They were married in 1953 and she was a splendid support to him at the Master's Lodge.

Tony and Miriam Camps retired to Little Abington, where friends were always sure of a warm welcome. But Tony's eyesight and general health began to fail and he was increasingly dependent on Miriam who devoted herself to his care and comfort. It was then one of life's ironies that she should predecease him. He took the loss hard but carried on bravely for a couple of years in a nursing home.

Robert Sanders

William Anthony Camps, classical scholar: born 28 December 1910; Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge 1970-81; married 1953 Miriam Camp (died 1994); died Cambridge 17 January 1997.

W. A. Camps

The election of William Anthony Camps to the mastership of Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1970 was a fitting recognition of his quiet but all-pervasive influence at Pembroke over many years and crowned his career in the college he first entered as an undergraduate from Marlborough in 1928.

The son of a surgeon, Tony Camps came to Pembroke as a classical scholar. He was elected to a fellowship in 1933 at the early age of 23, and six years later was appointed a university lecturer. During the Second World War, he was one of the brilliant minds recruited by the Civil Service for special duties with the Ministry of Economic Warfare, but apart from this interlude, his life and talents were devoted to Pembroke.

From 1947 till 1962, Camps was the college's Senior Tutor in Classics, and also responsible for admissions. His insistence on high academic



Camps: gentle self-mockery.

standards ensured that Pembroke got its share of top-quality candidates. He also welcomed able postgraduate students, many of them from overseas, and in 1963 he was appropriately appointed tutor for advanced students.

His talents were appreciated in America, as attested by invitations to visiting professor-

ships in Toronto — which bore fruit in his book on Homer (*An Introduction to Homer*, 1980) — North Carolina and Princeton. This exposure was also responsible for widening the field from which Pembroke drew postgraduate students.

Camps, Meredith Dewey, the Dean, and Bill Hutton, the Bursar, were a formidable but genial triumvirate who made dining at the Pembroke high table a stimulating and entertaining experience, while at the same time holding the reins of the college firmly, guiding it the way it should go.

When, in 1970, Camps came to the mastership of the college he loved it was not the easiest time in Cambridge — for example, student disturbances arose — but he was well endowed to weather the storm. A combination of wisdom, tact, steadiness and humour enabled him to see Pembroke through those difficult years and even to prof-

it from them. His views were not always universally supported and he was certainly not afraid to maintain an unpopular stand when he was convinced in himself that he was right (for instance, he did not support the admission of women to the college), but his devotion to the college and his concern for its welfare were so patent that no one could doubt the sincerity and integrity of his position.

Those who attended Camps's classical supervisions were a privileged band, for he combined a demand for meticulous accuracy with a rare sense of style. His teaching was based on the authority of the original texts and they were his constant points of reference rather than other commentaries. But none of this prevented him from gentle self-mockery of the scholarly profession. He delighted in quoting dictionary definitions — not necessarily substantiated — such as the description of a

Homeric delicacy as "a mess of cheese and honey, a haggis", the latter to gain a rise from his pupils from the North.

His university lectures introduced these gifts to a wider audience, and, although he was handicapped by a hesitation in his speech, he never let it worry him with the result that it did not bother his listeners. Indeed they would affectionately adopt the pronunciation "Hacero" which was his way of getting round his problem with "Cicero". In particular, his lectures on Homer and Virgil attracted students, and the two poets were later the subjects of hooks (in 1980 and 1969 respectively) which he modestly called "Introductions" but which were really much more.

In the 1960s he also edited a four-volume series of the works of the poet Propertius with typical detailed care. They were perhaps fairly described by the publisher as conservative, but in

fact this made them particularly useful to undergraduates and sixth-formers, though there was plenty of meat for the more advanced student. With his innate modesty, and in keeping with his emphasis on the importance of the text, Camps wrote in a preface that "the poetry will be found in the poems themselves, and the reader is warned not to look for it in my part of the book, which is dry stuff".

He followed the further careers of his students with encouragement and advice (which sometimes went beyond mere persuasion) when their studies took them in different directions, and nothing gave him more delight than the appointment of one of his stars, Malcolm Lyons, as the Sir Thomas Adams Professor of Arabic at Cambridge in 1985.

In the post-war years in Paris, he became acquainted, through a fortuitous confusion of mail deliveries based on the similarity

of their names, with Miriam Camp, who had served with considerable distinction in the United States Foreign Service. They were married in 1953 and she was a splendid support to him at the Master's Lodge.

Tony and Miriam Camps retired to Little Abington, where friends were always sure of a warm welcome. But Tony's eyesight and general health began to fail and he was increasingly dependent on Miriam who devoted herself to his care and comfort. It was then one of life's ironies that she should predecease him. He took the loss hard but carried on bravely for a couple of years in a nursing home.

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William Anthony Camps, classical scholar: born 28 December 1910; Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge 1970-81; married 1953 Miriam Camp (died 1994); died Cambridge 17 January 1997.

Carlo Fassi

Carlo Fassi was one of the world's finest teachers of figure skating, who coached his pupils to an awesome number of world and Olympic championships titles. At the time of his sudden death in Lausanne he was working with a young American, Nicole Bobek, who had previously taken the bronze medal in 1995 and has potential to do even better.

Unlike some great trainers, Fassi himself had a notable championship record. I first saw him in the 1949 world championships in Paris, where I rather condescendingly wrote in the *Skating World*: "Carlo Fassi of Italy was inclined to teepoke [a common fault in compulsory figure skating] but is generally conceded to have

improved since last year's Olympics." He continued to do so, becoming European men's champion in 1953 and 1954. He competed in two Winter Olympics and in his own country he was unsurpassed — 10 times national men's champion and with Grazia Barcelloni nine times the best Italian pair skater.

In 1954, he turned professional to teach at Cortina in the Dolomites, where he stayed for five years. One of his pupils was a fair-haired German girl Christa von Kuczowski. In 1960, he married her — now Senora Fassi — she was champion of Italy. She too became a trainer, and for more than 40 years they were a splendid partnership. Each had qualities that

complemented the other, to the benefit of their pupils.

Fassi's great opportunity came in 1961 when he was appointed chief instructor at the Broadmoor Ice Rink in the United States. Soon the world's most gifted skaters were travelling to Colorado Springs for tuition, among them Peggy Fleming of California. She was a perfectionist, a quiet, concentrated artist whose skating seemed to be a private communion between herself and the ice. The Fassis coached her to three world titles and the Olympic gold medal in 1968.

The Fassi teaching style owed its success to its flexibility. As he wrote in his 1980 textbook *Figure Skating With Carlo Fassi*: "A good teacher has to ad-

just his or her technique to the ability and personality of each skater. The best technique for one skater may not be the best for another." The value of this approach became particularly evident in 1976 when two Fassi pupils of greatly differing personality each won world and Olympic gold medals. One was Dorothy Hamill, the other John Curry. Hamill later described how Fassi was "able to tune in to his students' moods. If we were just being lazy, he showed us mercy. But if we were truly upset, he would say kindly, 'Go on home'."

John Curry, a skater of genius, wrote that, at first, "I did not like Mr Fassi and Mr Fassi did not like me". But very quickly, with the tactful aid of

Christa Fassi, they "got along together, in fact we soon enjoyed each other's company." Curry's final verdict was: "Mr Fassi is the best trainer in the world."

Four years later, Robin Cousins was also to benefit from Fassi's tuition. He won the 1980 European Championship as well as Olympic Gold. He has described Fassi as "a tremendous morale booster and very good at giving you confidence... he could make people feel they could win".

Another title came Fassi's way in 1990 when Jill Trenary of the United States became world champion. She is now the wife of the skater Christopher Dean.

During the 20 or so years when I was the *Times*'s skating correspondent I met Fassi often.

I could always rely on him for an honest opinion. Some trainers are over-keen to boost their pupils' chances when talking to the press, but Carlo Fassi would not hesitate to tell me of their weaknesses as well as their strengths. His fluent Italianate English was vivid, often hilarious. He spoke several languages and on one occasion, suffering from jet-lag, he absentmindedly spoke to me in German while simultaneously conversing with someone else in Italian.

Outside the ice rink, he had a passion for making models of Second World War warships. The last time we met, he asked me to find out the exact camouflage pattern of HMS *Warspite* and HMS *Prince of Wales*.

Dennis Bird



Fassi: morale booster

Carlo Fassi, skating trainer: born Milan 20 December 1929; Italian Champion in singles 1943-54, in pairs 1942-51; European Men's Champion 1953, 1954; married 1960 Christa von Kuczowski (two sons, one daughter); died Lausanne 20 March 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

MILL: Dr Anne (née Davies), wife of Roger Mill and only daughter of David and Mary Davies, died 24 March 1997, peacefully at her home in Haverhill, Hants. Consultant anaesthetist with Portsmouth Hospital Trust. Funeral at Haverhill Parish Church Tuesday 1 April 1997 at 1.45pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Wessex Cancer Trust c/o Mr M.G. Eames, J. Edwards & Son Funeral Directors, 13 Haverhill Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7TU.

Announcements for Deaths, Births, Marriages & Deaths should be posted to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, or telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (fax 0171-293 2018). Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visit the replica of HMS *Dreadnought* (the ship in which Charles, Duke of Cornwall and York, sailed to Australia and New Zealand, 1769-71) in the Pool of London. The Duke of York, Prince, visits the exhibition of portraits of the Young Electors of the House of Hanover at the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace. 11 March. band provided by the Scots Guards.

Birthdays

Mr David Ames MP, 45; Mr Alan Adkin, actor, 63; Mr Graham Barlow, cricketer, 47; Mr Pierre Boulez, conductor and composer, 72; Mr James Cann, actor, 58; Miss Kyung-wa Chung, violinist, 49; Lord Graham of Edmonton, former MP, 72; Mr William Hague MP, Secretary of State for Wales, 36; Miss Jean Graham Hall, former circuit judge, 80; Lord Hooson QC, 72; Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley, chairman, Osprey Aviation, 76; Miss Elizabeth Jane Howard, novelist, 74; Sir George Jefferson, chairman, Videotron Corp, 76; Sir Bernard Katz, Nobel prize-winner and biophysicist, 86; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch, 83; Sir Leslie Melville, economist, 95; Mr Leonard Miley, actor, 66; Mr Terry Pryor, chairman, Horticulture Research International, 63; Mr Harry Rabinowitz, conductor and composer, 81; Miss Diana Ross, singer, 53; Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathan Rod, Deputy Commander, Fleet, 58; Mr Amedee Turner QC, former MEP, 68.

Anniversaries

Births: Alfred Edward Housman, poet, 1859; "Chico" Leonardo Marx, comedian, 1887; Tennessee Williams (Thomas Lanier Williams), playwright, 1911. Deaths: Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, 1827; Cecil John Rhodes, financier and statesman, 1902; Sarah Bernhardt (Rosine Bernard), actress, 1923; David Lloyd

George, first Earl Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, statesman, 1945; Raymond Thornton Chandler, novelist and scriptwriter, 1959; Sir Noel Paton, playwright, 1973; Anthony Frederick Blunt, art historian and traitor, 1983. On this day: the first cremation in England took place, Woking, 1886; women were first allowed on the floor of the London Stock Exchange, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Basil the Younger, St Basilio, St Celsus of Rome, St Felix of Trier, St Ludger and St Moctar.

State Opening of Parliament

Parliament will be opened by the Queen at 11.30am on Wednesday 14 May 1997.

Peers who will be present at the ceremony may apply for a place in the Chamber for their peers or husband, and for their eldest son or daughter above 14 years of age.

A limited number of seats in the Royal Gallery will be available for guests of Members of both Houses of Parliament. Members of the House of Commons should apply for these seats to the Speaker's Secretary, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Applications from Peers using the forms issued to those eligible should be sent to the Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW by Friday 11 April 1997.

The Sons of Thunder come home to Westminster

Is the death of Christ the property only of Christians? Today, in the Wednesday of Holy Week, the faithful are called to worship with these words from the Epistle to the Philippians: "Christ Jesus, being found in human form, bumbled himself; and became obedient even unto death, death on a cross." The great church buildings and grand political designs of Westminster, where I work, seem far from the humiliated Christ. God has bumbled his son, but not the Church, it can seem.

There are some interesting counterpoints about humility and power in the Gospels. In Luke's, Jesus is going up to Jerusalem. He and his disciples pass through a Samaritan village, but the people reject them because of the traditional enmity between Jews and Samaritans. James and John, the "Sons of Thunder", are enraged: "Lord, shall we call down fire from heaven to destroy them?" At this point Jesus merely rebukes them. But then they meet another man, eager to be a disciple. To him Jesus replies: "Foxes have holes, and the birds their nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

These episodes are deeply poignant when taken together, as Luke intended (only our soundtrack treatment of

Arguments for Easter

God has humbled His son but not His Church, it can sometimes seem. But the politics of this secular age may yet do that, argues the Rev John Kennedy.

scripture separates them). For this Jesus is not a divine victim, caught in the church and state politics of Calaphas and Pilate. Nor is he simply to be betrayed by his followers' cowardice and stupidity. Rather he is a man who chooses his own destiny.

Traditionally it has been common to regard Jesus's disciples as revealing themselves in this episode as engaging, craven buffoons. But there is something much more troubling in his followers' self-righteousness and their desire to possess him. Their arrogance contrasts sharply with Christ's obedience to the will of his Father. It is an arrogance which is all too common among many

modern Christians. The early writers of the Church, like Luke and Paul, insisted that Christ was not an exclusive property. He died for us, in our flawed humanity, and our belonging to him reflects no merit in us. So the followers of Christ are not to lord it over the rest of frail humanity. In practice, of course, Christians often give in to the temptation — even Paul himself had, on occasions, a touch of the aggressively self-justifying Son of Thunder about him. Yet Paul's most daring insight is that Christ died to destroy the barrier between a chosen people and the rest of humankind.

The great buildings of Westminster provoke reflection on this theme. I walk down the beautiful curved staircase of Methodist Central Hall, and through its great window see the gleaming white Abbey ahead; round the corner is the exotic Byzantine splendour of the Catholic Cathedral. These buildings form a wonderful trio — much more fun than if they had been planned by some ecumenical committee — but they do not obviously proclaim our humanity made one in the body of Christ. It is an age of growing secularism which has humbled us, rather than obedience, as with Christ.

Behind the churches looms the Palace of Westminster, overshadowing us all. It has a power over the detail of our lives of which churches only ever dreamed. True, it also suffers the traditional Christian vices of vanity, ambition, fanatical partisanship and self-righteousness — no shortage of Sons of Thunder there. There too, as in the Church, treasure is carried in earthen vessels — God can work through its disobedience, and that of fallen humankind in so many other circumstances, to create a healing of humanity.

The message of Christ's Passion this week is that the purposes of God are never simply achieved among his worshippers. Despite the arrogant illusion of the Churches, they have ever been the sole proprietors of the divine purpose — a fact they are belatedly acknowledging by their recent increased enthusiasm to take part in the political process. Christ's death was never the exclusive property of Christians. It is God's gift to the whole world. We share a common humanity — never more so than when we are broken or desolate and have most real need of each other. That may be a Christian conviction, but it is one which God has made into a healing truth of universal power.

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business & city

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BUSINESS & CITY DEPUTY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

Pilkington warns on the cost of German cuts

Michael Harrison

Pilkington, the St Helens-based glassmaker, yesterday dealt shareholders a fresh blow by warning that profits would be £55m lower this year because of the need for further redundancies and asset write-downs in Germany.

The warning sent Pilkington shares down a further 6 per cent to 121p compared with the 155p investors paid 18 months ago in a £303m rights issue.

Pilkington said that a collapse in flat glass prices since the start of the year and a slowdown in the German construction market meant that it would have to take the axe to its continental operations again for the second time in two years.

About 1,000 jobs are likely to be slashed in Germany as Pilkington cuts its processed glass capacity by 20 per cent. The cutbacks come on top of 1,900 job losses announced last year at cost of £155m.

The fresh cutbacks means the group will incur restructuring costs approaching £20m in each of the next two years. It is also taking a further £40m charge to cover asset write-downs in the year just ending.

Pilkington said that as a result profits would be not less than £130m in the year to 31 March. That compares with forecasts of £250m last June and £190m as recently as last November.

Sir Nigel Rudd, Pilkington's chairman, said these results

represented a "setback" but he said its underlying strategy of cutting costs and rebuilding the business remained sound.

Finance director Andrew Robb said that most of the damage had been done by the sharp fall in glass prices since the end of 1996. This had been exacerbated by the strength of the pound against the mark, the building of new capacity in eastern Germany and weak German construction markets.

Float glass prices have slumped from DM6.30 a square metre in November 1995 to DM4.50 now and Pilkington is not budgeting on them rising above DM5 for the remainder of this year. Mr Robb said the exchange rate impact on the group would be between £10m and £20m this year if the pound stayed at current levels.

Germany is Pilkington's biggest single market, accounting for about £800m of its £2.8bn turnover. The group has four float glass lines in Germany and extensive process glass operations making finished products for the building and automotive industries such as double-glazing and car windscreens.

But prices there have come under increased pressure because of the slump in construction orders and the move by rival glass maker Guardian to add to capacity by building a new line in eastern Germany. Overcapacity is reckoned to be running at about 10 per cent. The latest cuts will not affect

Pilkington's float glass lines in Germany which are operating at about 90 per cent capacity and are still having to produce glass to be shipped out to the US where Pilkington's six float lines cannot cope with demand.

In the last four years Pilkington has taken £300m out of its costs but still has more to do. "It has been a constant battle to turn a collection of acquisitions into a fighting fit company," Mr Robb said.

Comment, page 25

Fed lifts key loan rate by a quarter point

David Osborne
New York

The Federal Reserve last night raised its key interest rate by a quarter of a point – the first increase in two years – describing the move as a "prudent step" in the light of the US domestic economy.

The widely expected move prompted a 75-point turnaround on Wall Street, with the Dow falling by almost 30 points to 6878, having earlier shown gains of 45 points.

The rate hike increases the key Fed funds rate to 5.5 per cent. The discount rate remained unchanged.

Earlier, Wall Street had been in sanguine mood as the meeting of the Fed's policy-making Open Markets Committee began. It was said to be ready to agree a small increase in short-term rates as a pre-emptive strike against any possible return of inflationary pressures in the still-expanding US economy.

The increase represents the first tightening of monetary conditions in the US since February 1995. The last time rates were moved in either direction was in January last year, when there was a cut.

Most economists had anticipated the quarter point increase in the federal funds rate – the rate that commercial banks charge each other for overnight loans – from 5.25 per cent.

Far from being dismayed by the prospect of a rate increase, most stock investors appeared already to be looking beyond it. The Dow Jones industrial average put on more than 100 points in trading on Monday and was again in positive territory during the hours yesterday before the Fed's announcement.

Any bigger shock for Wall Street from the meeting would have been a decision to do nothing. A few economists continued to suggest that the Fed could agree to wait one more month until its May meeting to assess further what inflationary risks may be lurking.

A decision to stand still would have, however, undermined the credibility of the Fed chairman Alan Greenspan, who has been hinting strongly in recent weeks that the time for a precautionary tightening had arrived. He recently voiced particular concern about tightening of the labour market and what that could do to first wage levels and then consumer prices.

Also weighing on Mr Greenspan was his concern about what he has called the "irrational exuberance" that has continued to drive up the stock market through the first weeks of this year.

The action by the Fed last night came despite no clear evidence of a return of inflationary pressures.

ScotAm holders set for £1,400 windfalls

Clifford German

Policyholders in Scottish Amicable stand to gain windfalls worth £1,400 on average after the Prudential yesterday won the closely fought race for the life insurer.

The Pru's offer, valued at £2.15bn in total, consists of £850m worth of cash and assets plus a £1.3bn loan on commercial terms which will increase the investment performance of the ScotAm life fund.

Some 1.1 million with-profits policyholders will get an average of £550 in cash, plus a £430 bonus which will be added immediately to their policies. The balance will be added to their terminal bonuses.

Up to 400,000 non-profit policyholders get nothing because under ScotAm rules they are not members of the society.

Individual benefits depend on what policies are held, how much has been invested and how long the policies have been in force. Anyone who had applied to take out a with-profits policy before the close of business on Monday will get something.

The £600m cash element of the bid and about half the immediate bonuses, together worth £850m, will come from Prudential shareholders and policyholders. The balance of

Scottish Amicable bid details	
• Cash paid to 1.1m policyholders	£850m
• Immediate bonuses to policies	£470m
• Terminal bonus when policies mature	£500m
• Amount to be loaned by the Pru to the ScotAm 'capital fund'	£1.3bn

The £1.3bn capital support allows ScotAm to free £720m (paid in annual and terminal bonuses) of the above sum from its life funds

the immediate bonus plus the terminal bonus, together worth £720m, represents surplus value that will be squeezed out of ScotAm's own funds.

Exactly who gets what will depend on detailed work over the next six weeks to find a formula which reflects the amounts policyholders have contributed, investment performance and the length of time policies have been held.

A circular giving details will be sent out to policyholders some time in May and a vote will be held on the proposals in June. The decision then has to go before the Scottish courts, which could take two or three months, so it may be October before the business is transferred and the bonuses are paid.

Details of the rival bids,

from Australian Mutual Provident and Abbey National will be revealed in the circular, but will not be released earlier unless the losers themselves decide to reveal them.

Yesterday Abbey National expressed disappointment about the bid outcome, but stressed its own plans to concentrate on rapid organic growth.

AMP, which is known to want to buy another life company, also chose to stay silent, perhaps to use the interval before the ScotAm circular appears to draw up bids for other targets.

Other bidders may also be stalking the likely targets, which include Friends Provident, Scottish Provident and Scottish Life.

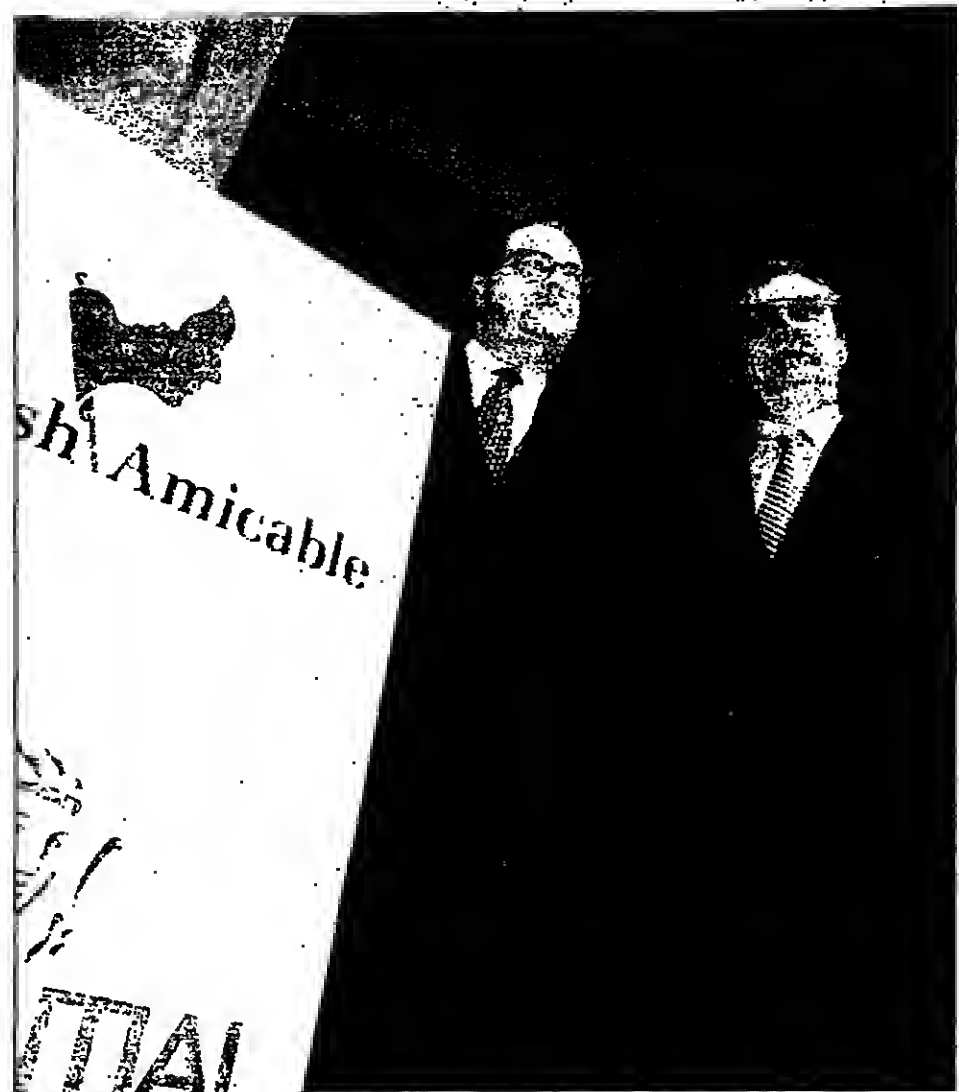
The Prudential's trump card, according to Roy Nicolson,

ScotAm's chief executive, was the £1.3bn loan to the ScotAm life fund, which will allow it to improve its performance by investing more in equities without straining its reserve requirements. The Pru has also guaranteed the jobs of all the 1,500 ScotAm staff who work at its head office at Craigforth, Stirling for at least the next three years.

The 200 staff in ScotAm's overseas division and the 280 members of the salesforce are expected to stay as the Prudential intends to build up both departments. The only question mark is over the 150 staff at ScotAm's investment division based in Glasgow, although here too the Pru will give earnest consideration to maintaining the presence.

Prudential's chief executive, Sir Peter Davis, stressed the complementary nature of the two businesses, with the Pru's strength in with-profit bonds and annuities and the big networks of independent financial advisers matched by ScotAm's strength in mortgage endowments, personal pensions, unlinked policies, long-term care and close links with small and medium sized independent financial advisers (IFAs).

The combined business will have over 7 million policyholders, £105bn of funds under



Amicable arrangement: The Pru's chief executive, Sir Peter Davis (left), with Roy Nicolson, his ScotAm counterpart, after the deal was announced

Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid

management, and over £800m worth of new business in 1996. The acquisition will slightly dilute the Pru's earnings per share in 1998, finance director

Jonathan Bloomer admitted, but the extra business confirms the Prudential as market leader in UK fund management and puts it hard on the

beels of Standard Life, the UK market leader in business sold through IFAs. The Pru's shares rose 15.5p to 555.5p.

Comment, page 25

Record £1bn property sale rocks HK

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

Even Hong Kong's most rapacious property bulls were taken aback yesterday when a residential property development was sold for HK\$11.8bn, close to £1bn, believed to be a world record for a site of this kind.

Analysts agreed that the record-breaking purchase represented a considerable vote of confidence in the colony's property market just three months ahead of the return to Chinese sovereignty.

"Developers have a very robust confidence in the outlook for the residential market," said Michael Green a director

at Salomon Brothers and long-time property specialist in Hong Kong.

The sale was made at a government land auction for an unusually large 275,472 sq ft site at the eastern tip of Hong Kong island which is neither fashionable nor known as a location for middle class residence.

Nevertheless Sino Land, a locally listed property developer, left other bidders staring in amazement as it scooped up the site for an equivalent price of almost £440 per sq ft.

Yesterday's sale is not an isolated example of bullish sentiment in the property market. In the residential market alone prices rose by an average of 30

per cent last year. This mirrored the rise in share prices, which is hardly surprising because property values account for the bulk of assets held by quoted companies and underpin the entire stock market.

Although the commercial property market is less buoyant than the residential market, a survey by locally based C.Y. Leung & Co shows that Hong Kong ranks as only second to Tokyo in terms of costs for setting up offices. In Tokyo the average cost last year was \$100 per square foot per month; in Hong Kong the average is \$80.

Last year the Peking-controlled Citic Pacific set another record by paying HK\$3.35bn to

buy reclaimed land near the centre of town to build a grade 'A' office tower.

Construction of the new building is at an advanced stage and letting has already begun. The developers are expected to make a good return despite the fact that yields on office properties are declining.

The property market has shrugged off uncertainties about the return to Chinese rule to such an extent that the government has set up yet another task force to examine ways of eliminating property speculation.

Large queues form outside the doors of property developers launching new apartments

and money can be made by simply selling the right to buy units in new developments.

Nevertheless most analysts predict that price rises in the current year will not match those of the past year. The Hang Seng Bank, a unit of HSBC Holdings, expects mid-range residential prices to rise by no more than 15 per cent.

The main uncertainty is not political factors but interest rate movements. Yesterday's sale came ahead of an anticipated rise in United States interest rates which is likely to be followed by a rate rise in Hong Kong where the local currency is tied to the greenback at a fixed rate.



Shirt-sleeved workers indulged in contortions on the mat in Broadgate, the City of London, yesterday as MB Games' Twister-then celebrated the 30th anniversary of the top-selling game

BZW dismisses reports of error

John Willcock

BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank, moved swiftly to play down news of a £11.5m loss on a 1996 currency trade which emerged in press reports yesterday.

The bank dismissed suggestions there had been a mispricing error, saying that it was merely an ordinary deal which went wrong. Sources within BZW insist that the people involved in the July dollar-market deal were within their dealing

limits, and that when managers discovered that "a rapid movement in the currency markets" was moving against the position they acted "within minutes".

While the emergence of such a loss has clear resonance with the £7m charge NatWest markets was recently forced to make against a mispricing error on options trades, the markets took a relaxed view of the affair.

Bank stocks were being marked sharply up yesterday following a "buy" note from James Capel, and Barclays

shares rose 26p to 1016.5p. BZW confirmed that the position involved in the loss was being managed by Paul Ellis and Paul Doust, both of whom subsequently left the bank last year. BZW says their departures were by mutual consent.

The bank refused to comment on whether their leaving was linked to the loss, saying: "We never comment on that – it's an unreasonable thing to do."

Such is the sensitivity of investment banks, particularly British ones, following the

NatWest Markets mispricing scandal, that BZW felt obliged to issue an official statement yesterday. It said: "In July of last year, senior management in BZW's markets division and its independent risk management function took action to hedge a trading position which had been adversely affected by an unanticipated and rapid movement in the currency markets."

The statement said the loss was not a material one as far as the annual results were concerned.

Morrison teams up with Midland

Nigel Cope

William Morrison, the Bradford-based supermarket group, has become the latest food retailer to launch a banking operation.

It has teamed up with Midland Bank to offer what it claims will be the first "full service" bank in the aisles of a supermarket. It follows similar moves into financial services by Tesco, Sainsbury and Safeway.

The first "Midlands at Morrisons" branch will open at the group's Five Lane Ends store in Bradford in May. Further branches will be opened in the next few months and a new savings account will be introduced later in the year.

The in-store banks will be staffed by Midland workers and Morrisons staff can also use a direct telephone link to the bank's national call centre as well as cash and deposit machines.

Morrison's hinted at a possible move into financial services when it announced its full-year results last week. It is also creating 2,250 extra jobs as it opens its first stores in the South next year.

The supermarket group is the latest to join the rush into financial services which was

started by Tesco when it launched its ClubCard Plus deposit account last year.

Since then Safeway has teamed up with Abbey National and Sainsbury's has formed a joint venture to open a fully fledged Sainsbury's bank. Some banking analysts have questioned the wisdom of supermarkets moving into financial services saying they risk "brand contamination" if mistakes are made.

However, the supermarkets feel they can use their brands across a range of services. Some analysts say a price war on savings accounts is possible as banks and building societies may seek to match the supermarket rates.

STOCK MARKETS			
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)
FTSE 100	4270.70	+55.90	+1.3
FTSE 250	4552.70	+15.80	+0.3
FTSE 350	2109.40	+23.40	+1.1
FTSE SmallCap	2311.60	-0.30	-0.0
FTSE All-Share	2082.52	+21.23	+1.0
New York	6909.40	+4.15	+0.1
Hong Kong	1439.61	+395.79	+2.2
Tokyo	12832.53	+83.39	+0.7
Frankfurt	3348.14	+27.30	+0.8

INTEREST RATES			
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	
6.78	7.8	7.1	
6.78	7.7	7.0	
6.80	7.6	6.9	
6.82	7.5	6.8	
6.84	7.4	6.7	
6.86	7.3	6.6	
6.88	7.2	6.5	
6.90	7.1	6.4	
6.92	7.0	6.3	
6.94	6.9	6.2	

CURRENCIES			
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	
1.60	1.60	1.60	
1.60	1.60	1.60	
1.60	1.60	1.60	
1.60	1.60	1.60	
1.60	1.60	1.60	
1.60	1.60	1.60	
1.60	1.60	1.60	
1.60	1.60	1.60	
1.60	1.60	1.60	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES			
Rates	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change
Scottish Widows	419	40	10.4
San Life & Prov	287.5	18	6.4
Lloyds TSB Grp	482.5	28.5	6.3
Barclays	1016.5	26	2.6
BZW	1016.5	26	2.6
NatWest	1016.5	26	2.6
HSBC	1016.5	26	2.6
Midland	1016.5	26	2.6
Morrison	1016.5	26	2.6

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To deny policyholders large handouts in cash and bonuses simply because you want to continue with your own strategy is no longer an option

Writing is on the wall for mutual insurers

If ever a demonstration were needed of the relative firepower between different UK insurers, the takeover of Scottish Amicable by Prudential provides it.

After all, here was a company, slightly tarnished but still in reasonable health, whose actuaries spent the best part of two years devising a complicated two-part flotation strategy. Yet within two weeks of ScotAm executives unveiling their plans, along came the Pru and blew them out of the water.

In the end, the big guns won. But there is more to this tale than one company taking advantage of the relative weakness of another. Prudential's successful bid marks a new stage in the way life companies are valued – most importantly by their own policyholders.

Until now, valuations placed on mutual insurers involved a relatively small amount of money – in some cases just tens of millions of pounds – to be paid as "goodwill" for taking over the company.

In addition, the buyer would have to pay a sum based on a proportion of assumed future profits generated from that firm's life fund. The total cost of the purchase, as many disappointed Clerical Medical members discovered after their takeover by the Halifax last year, certainly did not involve huge bonuses for them.

Scottish Amicable has changed all that. In future, policyholders asked by their life companies to approve a stock market flotation or a takeover will want to know whether the pro-

posal unlocks cash from their life fund, as Prudential's offer has done, and how much.

They will also demand a far higher "goodwill" offering than ScotAm's hapless executives ever assumed they were likely to receive for their firm. The old argument that life company takeovers will not result in big payouts to members no longer holds true. Nor does the suggestion that mutuals can simply ignore potential bidders, as ScotAm's executives did with an initial Prudential approach last year. That may have been possible before Prudential's cleverly structured deal.

But to deny policyholders large handouts in cash and bonuses simply because you want to continue with your own strategy is no longer an option – as NPL, Scottish Life, Friends Provident, Scottish Provident and half a dozen others may shortly discover.

Sir John's departure is bad timing

It is a tricky job being the chairman of a German-owned investment bank these days. First Simon Robertson parted company with Kleinwort Benson after what were politely termed strategic differences with his new bosses at Dresdner Bank. Now Sir John Craven is retiring finally from the top job at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

There, however, the similarities begin to wane. Mr Robertson paid the price for a

straight falling-out with his new owners. Sir John, by contrast, proved to be the great survivor at Morgan Grenfell, spending six and a half years on the management board of its parent Deutsche Bank before stepping down last May.

He insists that his departure has nothing to do either with the Peter Young scandal, or "that wretched Horlick woman" or, for that matter, his decision to take on the chairmanship of Lorch as from today.

Those who do not subscribe to the coincidence theory of corporate reshuffles may suspect otherwise. Sir John's retirement comes a matter of days before Imro slaps a £1m fine on Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Asset Management over the Young affair. The Lorch appointment also raised an eyebrow or two since Morgan Grenfell also happens to be the company's banker.

Against that, Sir John was as far removed from both the Young and the Horlick affairs as it is possible to be while still working for the same bank. He may not have liked either episode but he gave up active involvement in the management of Morgan Grenfell almost a year ago. The role of chairman was largely titular and in any case Sir John was rarely about the place. In the last couple of weeks he has spent one day in London and the rest of the time in South Africa, Indonesia, Australia and Switzerland prospecting for new business.

Nevertheless, the timing of his departure is unfortunate. He arrived at Morgan Gren-

fell in the immediate aftermath of the Guinness affair and he leaves with the bank once again tinged by scandal. He is not, however, severing links altogether with Deutsche Bank but will join the great and the good who sit on its advisory board – which is not to be confused with its supervisory board or its management board. Given the Horlicks that Deutsche has made over the aborted Thyssen bid, it may be in need of some advice.

The sound of breaking glass

The product may be dull but boy the same cannot be said for life as a manager, or a shareholder for that matter, in Pilkington. Even before yesterday's nasty bit of news from Germany, the shares were standing at a 17 per cent discount to the price they went for in the 1995 rights issue. The sound of breaking glass was then crashing another 6 per cent to a fresh low.

Quite how it is possible to stumble from one huge disappointment to the next when dealing in something as prosaic as glass will make a great management textbook one of these days. Two years ago it was a whopping £375m goodwill write-off to cover Pilkington's ill-fated adventure into contact lenses that did the damage. Last year it was the turn of restructuring charges in the UK and Europe to leave a £155m hole. This year, the

collapse in float glass prices and the disintegration of the German building market will leave Pilkington nursing another £55m of exceptional charges.

If it is any consolation, at least the trend is in the right direction. At this rate Sir Nigel Rudd may even have a clean set of results to parade come the next millennium, if he chooses to stay that long.

The irony is that the company has been doing many of the things that it ought to be doing. It may still have the air of paternalism that clings to great British industrial institutions. But in fact the new management in the shape of chief executive Roger Leveson has been there for nearly five years.

It has cut capacity where it needed to be cut and bought businesses when it made sense to do so. The £300m splash out on the Italian automotive glass maker SIV and Interpane in Scandinavia has given Pilk a big enough share of the European glass market to punch its weight with the big car-makers.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to legislate for the kind of collapse in prices that has ravaged the European glass market, nor for the determination of a competitor to add to the fun by building some unwanted capacity. Pilk's problem is that it is running to stand still. As fast as it cuts capacity more fat appears. It begins to make you wonder whether there will ever be serious money to be made from selling glass into a mature market like Europe.

Manufacturers miss out on Britain's boom

Diane Coyle and Chris Hughes

The contrast between the fortunes of manufacturing industry and services could not have been revealed more starkly than by new figures on investment yesterday.

Manufacturing investment fell by 8 per cent in the year to the final quarter of 1996, with the weakness concentrated in the core engineering industries. The level of investment in manufacturing last year was 15 per cent lower than in 1979.

The Labour Party pounced on the figures, to compare the Government's new economic slogan that "Britain is booming". Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor, said: "What we are essentially seeing is the reduction in capacity because of the failure to invest in manufacturing, that is exactly the problem that has bedevilled us in every previous recovery."

At the same time, however, investment in services and construction has increased sharply. In services, capital expenditure climbed 5 per cent in the latest quarter to a level 10 per cent higher than a year earlier. This matches its record in 1989, at the height of the last boom.

The gap between manufacturing and services is reflected in diverging regional economic performance, according to consultancy Business Strategies

Lid (BSL). Growth in services helped make London the fastest growing part of the country in 1996 despite a drop in manufacturing output, followed by the North, and Yorkshire and Humberside.

Business services such as accountancy, computer services and consultancy are performing especially well, according to BSL's latest regional report. Research director Neil Blake said: "This will bring the capital's growth this year close to the peak of 4.6 per cent it achieved in the boom year of 1986."

The consultancy joined other forecasters this week in warning that investment will need to rise soon after the election. Bridget Rosewell, BSL executive chairman and one of the Chancellor's independent advisers, said: "Even though inflation is currently on a

downward path, robust growth this year is expected to stoke up problems for the future years.

Interest rates would go up later this year, no matter who won the election. She warned that a slowdown would follow in 1998 and the year after. Few City experts believe Kenneth Clarke will bite the bullet and raise interest rates after his 10 April meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England because of the real risk this would trigger higher mortgage rates just before the general election.

Some analysts were sceptical about yesterday's official figures on manufacturing investment because they paint a picture so much weaker than business surveys would suggest.

Kevin Darlington at Hoare Govett said under-recording of manufacturers' capital spending could explain why GDP measured as the sum of different kinds of expenditure had fallen behind the measure based on output.

Economists also disagreed over how much manufacturing matters. Adam Cole at brokers James Capel said there was a real danger that weakness in manufacturing would undermine the balance of payments.

On the other hand, David Hillier at BZW said it was sensible for the economy to focus on services. "We can't compete in manufacturing with other economies paying £2 an hour,"

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annual meeting. Mr Matsuo said the other raids included searches of the homes of the racketeer – or "sokaiya" – and the Nomura director involved, Shimppei Matsuki.

The scandal surfaced on 6 March. Mr Matsuki and fellow director Nobutaka Fujikura resigned four days later after internal inquiries found they made discretionary deals handed under Japanese law and funnelled profits to a front company for the racketeer.

Sokaiya, often linked to "yakuza" crime syndicates, extort money by threatening to expose dubious business practices or to disturb shareholders' meetings – "sokai" in Japanese.

Nomura president Hideo Sakamaki stepped down on 14 March to atone for the scandal. He became an adviser to the company, and chairman Masashi Suzuki took over his position while retaining the chairmanship.

Nomura, one of the world's most powerful financial institutions, controls a powerful influence on the yen bond market and is also Japan's top foreign bond seller.

The company has seen key foreign and domestic clients suspend business with it since the scandal broke. Reports of the raids lowered Nomura's share price ¥20 (16 cents) at ¥1,440 (\$11.70).

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Iron fists: Thyssen steel workers vent their feelings about the proposed takeover outside the twin towers of Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt yesterday. Photograph: Reuters

20,000 blame banks for Krupp raid

Imre Karacs Frankfurt

The people of the Rust Belt held a beer-soaked picnic under the shimmering towers of Frankfurt's business district yesterday, staging the biggest demonstration since the war against the omnipotence of German banks.

Some 20,000 steel workers had made the 200-mile journey from the Ruhr to protest against the creeping Anglicisation of Rhinish capitalism, and against arbitrary deals struck in skyscraper boardrooms that eliminate thousands of jobs on the factory floor.

Their anger had been provoked by an un-German takeover bid hatched by the steel company Krupp and Deutsche Bank. Even though the prey, Thyssen, was taking large chunks out of its predator yesterday, the workers' fury was unabated. Tens of thousands had feared becoming unemployed as a result of the takeover, and now thousands employed by the two companies can look forward to redundancy because Krupp and Thyssen are merging "peacefully".

The big banks, which sit on virtually every board, hold shares in almost every company and oil the wheels of the German model of capitalism while taking their hefty cut, emerge from the affair as the chief villains. Keeping foreign competition out of Germany was one

thing, but financing one German company's raid on another just did not seem fair play.

The gambit has to some extent paid off, because the two companies are being forced into a shotgun wedding. It is big fish Thyssen that will swallow Krupp, bit by bit. The shares of both companies, though weak yesterday, finished much higher than their values before the takeover battle.

Representatives of both confirmed yesterday that the companies would be forming a steel production joint venture, to be managed by Thyssen, and would explore other forms of co-operation short of a merger. The details of their deal are expected shortly.

It is a victory of sorts for Krupp, which had tried in vain to convince Thyssen of just such a fusion for more than 20 years. Indeed Krupp, with a more anaemic balance sheet than its rival, was heading for the wall in any case. Compared with that fate, a merger on just about any terms might seem a triumph.

However, the way the company went about ensuring its survival, and particularly the role played by the banks, outraged politicians and business leaders alike. The hostile takeover bid had brought the lawlessness of the "Wild West" to Germany, or "Casino Capitalism", in the words of Klaus Zwickel, head of the IG Metall trade union.

Nomura offices raided over racketeering

Japanese prosecutors yesterday raided the Tokyo headquarters of Nomura, the country's biggest brokerage, as an investigation into payments to a client linked to racketeers widened.

The highly public raids, preceded by tip-offs to the media that they were imminent, appeared to signal that the action against Nomura could become a showcase as Japan seeks to clean up business practices and deregulate its economy.

In a bizarre scene officials in business suits, led by a man with a briefcase, marched military-style through the front doors of Nomura's head office.

They firmly locked the doors, shutting out journalists gathered for a raid designed to have maximum publicity.

The late afternoon swoop was carried out by prosecutors and officials of the nation's securities watchdog, the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission (SESC).

Coinciding with the headquarters raid, 90 more officials swooped on 10 other locations and for the first time spelled out the suspicions in detail.

Deputy chief prosecutor Kunitada Matsuo said the raids were to investigate a Nomura director's illegal payment of ¥38m (\$309,000) to a company run by a relative of a racketeer to avoid disruption of a Nomura

annual meeting. Mr Matsuo said the other raids included searches of the homes of the racketeer – or "sokaiya" – and the Nomura director involved, Shimppei Matsuki.

The scandal surfaced on 6 March. Mr Matsuki and fellow director Nobutaka Fujikura resigned four days later after internal inquiries found they made discretionary deals handed under Japanese law and funnelled profits to a front company for the racketeer.

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Rover cuts loss amid BMW fears of strong pound

Michael Harrison

The Rover car group cut losses last year from £158m to £119m but its German parent BMW warned that its performance this year could take a sharp turn for the worse if the pound remained at current levels.

BMW, which invested DM1.2bn (£445.5m) in Rover in 1996, said that under German accounting rules its losses last year had fallen from DM235m to DM279m. German account-

ing rules allow companies to write off investment in the year it is incurred.

The bigger fall in losses reported by Rover reflects the strengthening of the pound against the mark. However, under British accounting conventions Rover would have made an operating profit before interest last year of £90m to £100m after a profit of £28m the previous year.

Volker Doppelgfeld, BMW's finance director, said it

expected to invest £600m in Rover this year as part of a four-year £4bn programme that will see the launch of a new small Land Rover, a new Mini and a replacement for the Rover 600 and 800 series.

Mr Doppelgfeld said BMW's investment plans remained the same and he expected Rover's performance to improve this year. But he added: "If sterling continues to run havoc then this could have a negative effect."

Last year Rover sold more cars abroad than at home for the first time in its history. Exports reached 277,000 out of total sales of 507,245 vehicles worth £6.5bn. Sales to mainland Europe rose by 16.5 per cent with Italy the largest single export market. Rover's first-quarter sales rose 21 per cent to DM3.6bn.

BMW also dismissed as "utter rubbish" reports that it wanted to sell the loss-making Rover car business to concentrate on the profitable Land

Rover-Range Rover part of the group.

The new mini Land Rover, to be called the Freelander, will be launched in October and will compete with the likes of Toyota's Rav4. The 600-800 replacement is due to appear towards the end of next year.

Excluding Rover, BMW said group sales rose 22 per cent to DM14bn in the first quarter, amid continued strong demand for its 5-Series, though it expects the pace of sales to slow during

the year. "Growth rates are very high at the moment, but are expected to diminish, in percentage terms, in coming months," said chief executive Bernd Pischetsrieder.

Mr Pischetsrieder said sales of BMW's 3-series, which account for just under two-thirds of the group's car sales, rose 1 per cent in the first three months and are expected to grow at the same pace for the rest of the year before being phased out for a new model.

P&O delays Bovis float as housing market picks up

Tom Stevenson City Editor

P&O yesterday denied suggestions that it would shelve the proposed flotation of its house-building arm Bovis, but admitted it had delayed the demerger from March until the autumn.

Lord Sterling, P&O's chairman, said holding back would allow the City to appreciate better the fast-improving fortunes at Bovis, which is starting to benefit from the recovery in the housing market.

Housebuilding was one of the best performers at P&O where Lord Sterling appeared to have succeeded in his attempt, begun last March, to rebuild bridges with an increasingly dissatisfied investment community.

Part of that charm offensive was the flotation of Bovis,

Other measures included a £500m investment property sell-off and an attempt to drive the group's return on capital up to 15 per cent.

Although P&O has yet to deliver on any of those targets – it has sold a net £100m of property and return on assets remained stuck at 11.3 per cent last year – the City has warmed to the group's increased focus on generating shareholder value and, from a low of 46p, the shares have recovered to yesterday's close of 634.5p, up 9p.

The rise in the shares followed better-than-expected full-year profits in 1996, with a 4 per cent rise at the pre-tax line to £332.8m comparing with analysts' expectations of a small fall in profits. Investors shrugged off an implied warning on this year's profits, which Lord Ster-

ling said would be hit by the costs of merging its ferry operations with Stena and its shipping activities with Royal Nedlloyd of Holland, focusing instead on the promise of strong profits growth in 1998.

The company's attempt to rebuild profits, after two years of falling returns, were hit last year by a £32.5m fall in profits from ferries to £41m as competition from the Channel Tunnel started to bite.

Lord Sterling said he was confident that the proposed merger of P&O's ferry operation with that of rival Stena would get the go-ahead once the on-going MMC inquiry into the deal was completed.

The profits decline from ferries was offset by a big jump in profits from cruises.

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Hodder Headline lifts volume and profits after price war

Clifford German

Hodder Headline, the book publisher and distributor which helped end the Net Book Agreement, one of the country's last surviving restrictive practices, yesterday reported a recovery in results last year.

But the profits, up 16 per cent to £6.6m, were still below the 1995 figure of £8.16m.

Hodder said that lower selling prices had increased sales volumes, especially through multiple retailers and super-markets, while sales of hard-back best-sellers had doubled since the Net Book Agreement ended.

"We concentrated on developing and marketing high quality publishing lists in a framework of tight manage-

ment control," chief executive Tim Hely Hutchinson said. Low-margin overseas agency business has been discontinued and replaced by long-term copyrighting from the best authors.

Turnover was up 5 per cent to £92.8m, or 9 per cent on a like-for-like basis before the impact of exchange rates and the loss of low-margin business overseas.

UK consumer publishing made less money on higher turnover, but profits from the educational and academic division rose 20 per cent and overseas operations were more profitable. Losses at the distribution business were reduced.

A rise in the tax charge from 30 per cent to 30 per cent meant earnings per share were

only 2 per cent higher at 13.3p. The dividend was unchanged at 6.5p.

Likely best-sellers for 1997 include Stephen King's new novel, *Bazard and Glass*, Dean Koontz's new three-book series and the paperback version of John Le Carré's *The Tailor of Panama*.

Sales to book clubs and libraries declined in the first half of 1996, and have not yet shown much recovery.

Educational book sales are also sluggish and retailers are keeping stocks of these books low. But Hodder said that trading had been encouraging in the first two months of 1997.

Hodder Headline's shares, which were as high as 408p three years ago, closed 2.5p better at 218.5p.

business

Fresh interest in troubled retailer

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Country Casuals, the troubled women'swear retailer, faced fresh controversy yesterday when it emerged that its chief executive Mark Bunce is in talks which may lead to an offer for the company.

It is the second time in just 18 months that the retailer has been the subject of takeover interest from one of its directors. John Shannon, the group's former chief executive, failed in a bitter £27m takeover battle for the company just 18 months ago.

His offer was valued at 140p per share. Last night Country

Casuals shares closed up 7.5p at 102.5p.

Mark Bunce and his wife Christina who is commercial director, led a management buy-out of Country Casuals from Coats Viyella in 1989. They still retain 10 per cent of the stock but the proposed level of their offer is not yet known.

Their main interest would be the core Country Casuals chain, which is profitable. The group is already in the process of selling its loss-making Elvi division, which sells clothes for larger women, and its Lerose manufacturing business.

The company said yesterday that in the interests of max-

imising shareholder value it would allow Mr Bunce to pursue his offer "for a limited period of time".

However, neither Mr Bunce, nor his wife will take part in the appraisal of any offers for Elvi or Lerose, nor any offer for the company as a whole.

Country Casuals' finance director, Andrew Mills-Baker, said that although no offer from Mr Bunce had yet materialised he assumed one would be forthcoming.

He admitted that to have two approaches from past or current chief executives in two years was unusual. Mr Bunce was not in the office yesterday. Commenting on a profits

warning last November, Mr Bunce said: "We've got a core business (Country Casuals) that made profits of £3.5m last year. The problems is we have a start-up business (Elvi) and a manufacturing division that are dragging that down at the moment."

Mr Bunce bought 75,000 shares at 68p following the warning.

Country Casuals is due to report its full year results on Thursday, with pre-tax profits of just £100,000 expected. Investors will be looking for some reassurance on the performance of the company, which has issued two profits warnings in the last four months.

The Elvi stores and the Lerose business are expected to have lost £1.6m and £1.1m respectively.

Country Casuals was founded in 1973. Following the 1989 buy-out, John Shannon together with Mr and Mrs Bunce, took the company on to the stock market in 1992, when its shares were priced at 130p per share. They reached 180p in January 1993 but have been below the issue price since last autumn.

John Shannon's hostile bid was a bitter affair led through his vehicle Ciro Holdings. He had resigned in September 1994 after a dispute over his contract.

IN BRIEF

John Castle, former managing director at the building materials group Marley, is to become the new chief executive of Taylor Woodrow, the construction group, when Tony Palmer retires in May. Mr Castle's appointment came as Taylor Woodrow posted a 45 per cent increase in 1996 pre-tax profits to £66.8m. Sir Colin Pearson, the chairman, said housing markets in Canada, the US and the UK were all showing positive signs.

Singer & Friedlander, the medium sized London merchant bank, enjoyed a rise in pre-tax profit last year of 57 per cent to £54.8m, boosted by fees from stockbroking and investment management and a one-time gain from an asset sale. Stripping out the £16.5m exceptional gain from the sale of Singer's stake in the People Phone Company still left it with profits up 23 per cent to £41.7m. Shares of Singer fell 10.5p to 41p. Chief Executive John Woodson said the company would ideally like to buy something that would enhance its fund management business. At the right price, funds under management rose 58 per cent to £6.0bn and earnings per share rose 74 per cent to 17.96p including the exceptional profit. Mr Woodson concluded that "so long as the markets stay active we continue to prosper."

Rea Brothers, the financial services group which specialises in investment trusts, exceeded expectations with a rise in pre-tax profit last year of 35 per cent to £1.8m. Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 2.5p and the dividend remained the same. Roger Parsons, managing director, said funds under management had risen by 36 per cent to £950m and customer deposits by 20 per cent to £250m. Roughly half the group's business consists of the Finsbury Asset Management arm, which manages eight investment trusts, and which launched a \$55m hedge fund last year. The group also has over 1,000 private clients. Mr Parsons said it planned new fund management launches and an increased private client portfolio.

Cattles, the door-to-door consumer credit company, enjoyed a bumper 1996 with pre-tax profits up 20 per cent to £33.9m. Edward Cran, chief executive, said earnings per share rose 21 per cent to 17p and the final dividend went up 20 per cent to 3.5p, making 8.5p for the year. Cattles is expanding its network of Welcome offices, which provide banking facilities to those normally ignored by the high street banks. Welcome opened 11 branches last year, making 61 in all, and aims to open another 15 this year. "While the banks are looking for better-off customers, we can see a huge market emerging for us," said Mr Cran. The Shopcheck network of consumer credit agents is also set to expand, having 135 offices already.

Severe problems at Hunting's aviation interiors business were blamed for a slump in profits last year to £6.8m from £31.1m, on sales of £1.25bn (£1.13bn). Write-offs totalled over £40m in the first half, mainly to cover the cost and losses linked to a contract supplying interiors to the Dash-8 aircraft for De Havilland of Canada. Hunting, famous for its "runway-buster" bombs, plans to sell its non-core businesses, notably the aviation division, as soon as possible to focus on its oil activities and reduce gearing.

Company Results				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Ash & Lacy (F)	147m (104m)	10.1m (5.3m)	19.14p (12.24p)	7.2p (6.7p)
William Hill (F)	667m (621m)	4.0m (10.3m)	-8.7p (5.4p)	9.35p (8.35p)
Barclays Group (F)	316m (314m)	25.4m (24.3m)	2.4p (2.5p)	2p (2m)
Bentley (F)	4.44m (4.23m)	13.6m (8.2m)	4.7p (2.5p)	23.6p (23.1p)
Castles (F)	333m (294m)	33.9m (13.2m)	17p (15p)	8.2p (6.8p)
Hamlyn (F)	20.5m (20.1m)	8.8m (6.3m)	19.3p (19.3p)	9p (8.1p)
Hendy (F)	92.8m (88.8m)	8.8m (15.7m)	13.3p (11.3p)	6.5p (6.5p)
Hunting (F)	1.25bn (1.23bn)	6.8m (31.1m)	-15.4p (12.1p)	-
Independent Radio (F)	2.25m (1.1)	-2.99m (1.1)	-25.7p (1.1)	-
Alfred McAlpine (F)	994m (977m)	9.4m (23.5m)	10p (37.2p)	7p (7p)
Macmillan Group (F)	157m (159m)	20.4m (21.2m)	11.28p (12.03p)	4.025p (3.9p)
P&O (F)	7.09m (6.57m)	33.3m (35m)	40.1p (37.8p)	30.5p (30.5p)
Rothmans Trust (F)	116m (105m)	12.2m (12.6m)	3.9p (3.49p)	1.4p (1.2p)
Schell (F)	212m (207m)	-15.1m (17.1m)	-28.2p (13p)	7.7p (7p)
SIG (F)	557m (525m)	30.0m (24.1m)	16.1p (20.3p)	7.2p
Singer & Friedlander (F)	-	54.8m (34.9m)	17.96p (10.35p)	4.65p (4p)
Skipperman (F)	11.1m (7.5m)	-11.7m (2.7m)	-6.9p (13.6p)	-
Sun Life & Provincial (F)	4.31bn (4.1)	156.4m (1.1)	13.4p (1.1)	10.12p (8.12p)
Taylor Woodrow (F)	1.25bn (1.13bn)	66.8m (31.1m)	12p (7.5p)	3.75p (1.1)
Vero Group (F)	105m (97.2m)	13.6m (11.1m)	14.7p (15.6p)	5.8p

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (1) - current 12 months; comparatives 12 months (1) - 12 months

Littlewoods draws up shortlist for stores bids

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Littlewoods has identified a shortlist of around 10 potential bidders for its high street stores which were put up for sale earlier this month.

The shortlist is thought to include supermarket groups, high street retailers and property companies as well as venture capital groups.

BZW, which is handling the sale on Littlewoods' behalf, is expected to narrow the field down to four or five firm bidders in the next few weeks. They will then be offered more detailed information on the business. The initial sales memorandum were only sent out last week.

Though chief executive James Ross is keen to sell the 135 stores in one block, City analysts doubt that any bidder will be interested in all the stores at the rumoured price tag of around £600m. However, it is understood that various consortia are forming in which a lead bidder would buy the whole chain and then sell off or close the stores it does not want.

BZW is confident that the opportunity to buy the best stores combined with the threat of a rival taking them will be sufficient to secure a good price.

Retailers tipped to be interested in Littlewoods include Kingfisher, Tesco, Asda, Next and C&A. However, Tesco now has its hands full with last week's £630m purchase of 109 supermarkets in Ireland.

Barry Dale, the former Littlewoods chief executive who made a £1.1bn bid for the group in 1995, says he is not interested



James Ross: The Littlewoods chief executive is keen to sell the group's 135 high street stores as one block

in making an approach at the current price. His bid last year valued the stores at £450m.

Kingfisher, the Superdrug and Comet retailer, has received a sales memorandum. It is interested in some stores to convert to its Woolworths format. But Kingfisher would not be interested in the whole high street chain as many of its formats such as B&Q and Comet are out of town and the Superdrug stores would be too small for the Littlewoods space.

BZW believes that the under-exploited nature of the Littlewoods portfolio make it a valuable asset. It says that only half of the 7 million square feet of space is configured as retail space. The rest is devoted to warehousing or other non-profit making activities.

Few believe any bidder would be interested in continuing to trade the stores under the Littlewoods name. The stores, which have been under-invested for some time, made operating profits of just £33.3m on sales of £479m last year.

Chelsfield raises £67m to fund Westbury buy

Tom Stevenson
City Editor

Chelsfield raised £63m yesterday to fund its recent acquisition of Granada's Westbury hotels, placing 20 million shares at 317p, a narrow discount of only 3 per cent to the property company's closing share price last night of 327.5p.

Elliott Bernerd, chairman, said the cash-raising, which has been oversubscribed by investors, would keep gearing at a comfortable level ahead of a raft of new developments, including big projects at White City in West London and the nearby Paddington Basin.

The ease with which the new funds were raised from the City is the latest indication of the esteem in which Mr Bernerd is held by investors following a string of innovative deals

since he brought Chelsfield to the market three years ago. As well as the big London developments and large retail based schemes and a large number of separate components capable of showing good returns. After a rise in profit before tax from £10.6m to £14.4m, a dividend of 3p was recommended, up from 2.75p.

Mr Bernerd denied that Chelsfield had missed an opportunity to buy property developer Imry from Barclays, saying the subsequent decision by Dutch property investor Rodamco to buy only part of the company vindicated its unwillingness to overpay.

Merry Hill, the Midlands shopping centre owned by Chelsfield, continued to thrive, Mr Bernerd said. Rents of £105 per square foot only two years ago had risen to £145.

"the strongest recorded by the group to date". He said it had continued its focus on core central London developments and large retail based schemes and a large number of separate components capable of showing good returns. After a rise in profit before tax from £10.6m to £14.4m, a dividend of 3p was recommended, up from 2.75p.

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Full steam ahead at P&O as cruises offset ferry losses

It is a year now since Lord Sterling launched his charm offensive on P&O's increasingly disgruntled investors, promising them property sales, a flotation of the Bovis housebuilding arm and, most importantly, the novel idea of a focus on shareholder value via a return on capital target of 15 per cent.

Yesterday's full-year figures for 1996, which emerged at a much better than forecast £332.8 (£320.4m) showed the company making great strides on a number of fronts even if the gaping hole the Channel Tunnel has blown in the Ferries operation and n collapse in bulk shipping and container rates took the edge off the other activities.

Return on capital was pegged at 11.3 per cent (11.1 per cent) as a result but the target should be more than achievable if the mooted cost benefits of the shipping merger with Royal Nedlloyd come through and the Stena deal is passed by the MMC.

Star of the show was cruises, where the gap between P&O and its British rival Cunard has started to yaw. The division now accounts for a fifth of group assets and almost a third of profits and, at 16.9 per cent, its return on assets is right up with market leader Carnival of the US. With a 50 per cent increase in capacity in the pipeline, the company is taking a big gamble on this continuing to be one of the leisure industry's biggest growth areas.

Other strong performers were housebuilding, where Bovis jumped from £17.1m profits to £28.8m, and property development, where a former market in the US, UK and Australia drove profits more than 50 per cent higher to £38.5m. Investment property remains a solid cash cow and the Australian arm is growing in importance.

Strong as they all were, however, they could do little to disguise the damage of a £32.5m fall in profits from £22.5m to £41m. Despite a 21 per cent growth in the number of tourist vehicles now crossing the Channel and a 10 per cent rise in freight, P&O's tourist volumes fell 8 per cent and the freight figure was merely maintained. It may go against the grain for the Government to sanction the creation of a ferry monopolist but

the strength of the competitive threat from Eurotunnel means consolidation is inevitable.

P&O's shares have had a good year, recouping much of the underperformance since the beginning of 1995 that had many investors questioning whether Lord Sterling shouldn't really walk the plank. On the basis of forecast profits of about £360m this year, the shares, up another 9p to 634.5p, trade on a prospective p/e ratio of 15 and yield 6 per cent, a long way off the 8 per cent you could have locked in a year ago but still an impressive income. Good value.

The key issue is whether Booker can make its acquisition of Nurdin & Peacock work. It has already pledged to reduce costs by £100m by next year. It says head office costs were higher than thought, leaving more scope for cutting, and that the purchasing benefits may be greater than anticipated. The rationale is that with a market share of 38 per cent and combined sales over £4bn, it should be able to match the big multiples' buying muscle. The downside is that margins are wretched and Booker's typical customers - corner shops and high street independents - are being squeezed by the supermarkets.

On analysts' forecasts of £103m, the shares, down 4p yesterday to 333.5p, trade on a forward rating of 11. Given that companies in the same sector such as Unigate trade on similar ratings and have more reliable records, there is better value elsewhere.

Booker pins hope on Nurdin

Booker, the cash and carry operator, has been a perennial under-achiever of late. Over the last five years its shares have fallen by 20 per cent and underperformed the FTSE All-Share by a chunky 54 per cent. Management has tried to tell a story of wringing out cash from the declining cash and carry sector to invest in higher-margin areas but the results have been somewhat disappointing.

This was again true yesterday with some analysts complaining that the 1996 results were short of expectations, though Booker blamed analysts for racing ahead of themselves. The chief executive, Charles Bowen, maintains that the three-year

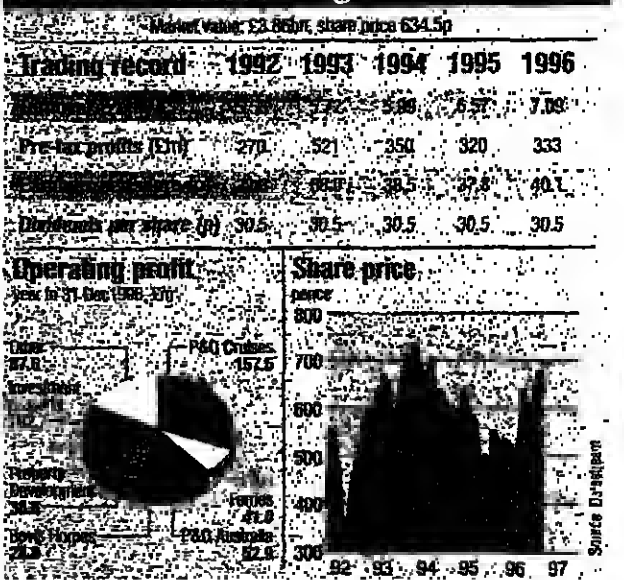
strategy announced in 1995 was always to start delivering robust earnings growth by 1998.

That may yet happen, though there was little sign of it in yesterday's figures. Pre-tax profits excluding exceptional items were marginally ahead at £102m. But there were £38m of exceptional charges largely due to last year's £264m acquisition of Nurdin & Peacock, the rival cash and carry group. Added to this was a £1m hit for the BSE impact on the prepared foods business and a £5m loss at Holroyd Meek, the catering operation.

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P&O: At a glance



Clubhaus tees up for take-off

Clubhaus has come a long way in the year since it floated on the market following a demerger from the Ex-Lands property company. With only a couple of golf courses 12 months ago, Clubhaus has rapidly acquired eight more to achieve the critical mass and economies of scale that should make the company stand out from the rest of the fragmented and undermanaged golf industry.

Turnover in the ten and a half months to December soared to £7.3m, compared with just £920,000 in the year to June 1995, from which an operating profit of £1.1m, a 15 per cent margin, was struck. Earnings per share were 3.6p.

With over 6,000 members and over 165,000 rounds of golf played last year, Clubhaus is well placed to capitalise on the growing demand for golf in all the markets in which it operates.

Between 1994 and 1995 the numbers of golfers increased by more than 6 per cent in Britain and twice as fast in Germany, where the company has three courses. Last year saw numbers grow again and in both countries growth in demand continues to outstrip the supply of courses.

The trick for Clubhaus is to manage its pretty rapid growth and work out exactly at what level it wants to pitch its membership, both in social terms and price-wise. Currently it seems slightly unsure whether it is running premium members' clubs or more cheap and cheerful pay and play courses. Given that the company wants to encourage reciprocity of memberships between its constituent clubs and also its recently acquired Mayfair business club, it arguably needs more focus.

That said, Clubhaus is the only company attempting to bring big business disciplines to bear on the dilettante world of golf. A deal with Whitbread, saving £100,000 on 19th-hole beer costs alone, is one example of how economies of scale can lead to significant savings. The payroll reductions achievable by merging management of courses is also considerable.

On the basis of forecast profits of £3.8m, the shares, up 2p to 87.5p, currently trade on a prospective price/earnings multiple in the mid-teens. With the promise of free members cards for investors with an as yet unspecified holding, the shares look good value.

Gas suppliers in hot competition for women with cats

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

A risibly named conference in Stratford upon Avon this week titled "Where Are The Utilities Going?" (around the bend, perhaps) has thrown up a fascinating fact: gas suppliers are targeting single working females with cats.

According to Tom Porter of Oracle, speaking to the 300-strong audience, this is because "statistics prove that they leave the central heating on to keep the house warm for when the cat comes in during the day".

There was also quite a lot of heat generated by other speakers during the three-day affair. One regional electricity company delegate observed a common theme running at utilities conferences: "In the morning, the City types castigate us for investing in deals which they invariably advised us on in the first place."

"Then in the afternoon on come the anoraks, who tell us to forget investment appraisal

altogether as 'none of that stuff' applies to the bright new technologies."

Alan Hunter, a stockbroker who celebrated his 63th birthday last Saturday, is having no fewer than three celebrations to mark his retirement from Williams de Broe. Well, if you've spent 51 years working in the City you



Warm welcome: Females with felines are good customers

might as well go out in style. Last Friday Alan, who runs the nominee side of things, took colleagues out for a drink at Conroy & Barrow in Broadgate. The bar allows customers celebrating their birthday a discount on a bottle of champers, so Alan got 65 per cent off for magnum for his mates.

Then on Monday he held a thrash for mostly retired City colleagues and friends at the Mosaic Bar in the Long Room of the Throgmorton Restaurant, opposite the Stock Exchange. Finally, tonight Williams de Broe will hold a formal leaving do.

Then Alan's off travelling for six weeks to "Montana and other far-off places", a colleague of his tells me. When he returns it won't all be cultivating the roses. Alan

and his wife run a market stall in north London, mainly selling stationery.

Labour's imminent election landslide may be threatened by that most dreaded of political phenomena - apathy. According to the *The Lawyer* magazine this week, "An ambitious Labour Party initiative to raise £100,000 from a series of seminars for City lawyers featuring members of its front bench had to be cancelled due to lack of interest."

Oh dear. Perhaps Labour's much-vaunted prawn cocktail offensive in the City to persuade business that Labour really has changed hasn't worked after all. The proposed shindig was launched last December by the Society of Labour

Lawyers and a list of speakers drawn up, including Robin Cook, shadow foreign secretary, and Alistair Darling, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury.

Perhaps City lawyers simply weren't too thrilled by the prospect of being dined at by Messrs Cook and Darling. As Labour parties out, a fund-raising dinner earlier this month featuring around 100 City lawyers paying £500 was a big success. That dinner, however, starred those noted crowd pullers Tony Blair and Cherie Booth QC.

Kenny Dalglish, Newcastle United manager and Jim Kerr, singer with Simple Minds, are helping to form a new management company based in Glasgow which aims to stop young sportspeople and musicians falling foul of the pitfalls of business. The stars are joining.

Ronnie Ludvig, managing partner of the Edinburgh office of accountancy firm Moores Rowland, to launch the Catherine Robertson Organisation.

The company will advise youngsters about contracts, sponsorship, tax and financial planning. It will be run by Catherine Robertson, a football agent who believes there are similarities between the worlds of sport and music.

John Willcock

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RUGBY UNION: Manager Fran Cotton will announce his party for the Lions tour of South Africa a week today. **Chris Hewett** considers the options, selects his own squad and analyses the contenders for the No 10 jersey



Gregor Townsend
(Scotland, 25 caps)

A rough Five Nations should not disguise the fact that Townsend remains one of British rugby's most precious possessions. Many of his more ludicrous excesses during the 1997 championship were the direct result of the mediocrity around him. Rightly or wrongly, Townsend felt honour bound to try something, anything, out of the ordinary. Too good to ignore.

Wilby the new man in charge at Hull

One of the game's most colourful and well-travelled characters, Tim Wilby, has taken over as chairman of Hull. Wilby, who had two spells with Hull as a player, is ploughing in the fortune he has made in property development.

"Money will be available for strengthening the team," Wilby said. "Humbleside needs a Super League team and there is no option to merge with Hull Kingston Rovers at the moment. We'll make it on our own."

Wilby has put an initial £300,000 into the club to make him the major shareholder. All but two of the club's directors have stood down.

Which leaves two issues: golfing and leadership. Neil Grayson, a puncher's chance, if that is not too flippant a description, of recovering from his serious arm injury in time to make the trip and, if he declares himself available, Cotton and company will fall to their knees in thanksgiving. If he misses out, Grayson and Jonathan Davies might expect to share the marksmanship duties.

Cotton's hard-headed assertion that there would be no room for sentiment in his defence of the British taxpayer's claim should not undermine the claims of Irwan Evans.

Retirement may be beckoning but Evans remains an automatic Test choice and while Martin Johnson, the taciturn

Besides, a Welsh captain would be a clever call. Self-respecting Celts can stand only so much English influence...

FANTASY FOOTBALL

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Let's make things better

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

TOP FIFTY LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 16 MARCH

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JDSI MARTI	833
2	MR SEAN BRDSNAN	OASIS	810
3	MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	809
4	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	803
5	MR ALEXANDRA FEAST	THE ZOROSTRIAN ZENETIC ZYGRIE	801
6	MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROYERS	800
7	MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	793
7	MR LAN GRDUT	SILK CITY	793
9	MR RICK YAP	DUT OF MIND	791
9	MR JOHN COX	SOUTHILL FC.	791
9	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER FC.	791
12	MR SCOTT MCINERNEY	NO TEAM NAME	790
13	MR KETH HDARY	DRGANIC MANURE FC.	788
13	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	788
15	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE FC.	785
15	MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	SANDLING STROLLERS	785
17	MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDPUS	784
18	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	ARLENSIU	783
18	MR ROBERT GREENFIELD	THE GULLS	783
20	MR BEN KENDALL	TURKEY'S TRIGGER	781
21	MR DARREN NICHOLAS	EDNA	779
21	MR G WHITE	WHITE CITY	779
23	MR A MORAWAN	KICK START	778
23	MR J GODWIN	NORWOOD	778
23	MR K B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOLM	778
26	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN	WASH TOP ARMY	776
26	MR GARY HAYLES	101 ALLSTARS	776
26	MR JONATHAN DAVIS	GOLDEN TEAM	776
29	MR ANDREW BOLTON	ANDREW'S B TEAM	775
29	MR PAUL FULLWOOD	KING OF HDBBIES FC.	775
29	MR ANDREW GOWIN	RC ALZEY	775
32	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	SANDINO	773
32	MR ANDY LANE	ANYONE CAN TOUCAN	773
32	MR MARTIN RENNICK	WILD ROYERS	772
32	MR D R MILLS	THE MUSHROOM LAYERS	772
36	MR ANDY SWANNEY	DOG'S BRICK	771
36	MR S J PERRY	THE GREAT ESCAPERS	771
36	MR D J (JOHNSON)	THE AWAY WINNERS	771
36	MR JOHN BRITTE	FAKE MADRID	771
40	MR TONY AKINDALE	OLLIE VILLA	770
40	MR ALEX FITZGERALD	ALF CHAMPIONS ELECT	770
40	MR F CURRAN	NO DETAILS	770
43	MR J GREAVES	ANONYMOUS ROYERS	769
43	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	IMPERIAL BATES	769
46	MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDREA	769
46	MR P HEMMINGWAY	WAGON WHEELS	769
46	MR BILL COOPER	YEP HOP 2000	768
46	MR JAMIE WARD LILLY	JILL'S REMMS GONE MISSING	768
47	MR CHRIS SCOTT	BRUCE LEE FC.	767
47	MR BARRY MORGAN	BAZZA'S BOYS	767
49	MR MARK HAYDEN	TROWBRIDGE WANDERERS	767

Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 32 (Wk 32) column lists all points scored in Premiership matches played between Monday 17 March - Sunday 23 March inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 23 March. Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 16 March. Results will be published every Wednesday in The

Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

MONTH SEVEN PRIZEWINNER

Congratulations to Mr Wayne Prior of Wantage in Oxfordshire who is this month's winner with his team **Gold United** which accumulated 119 points. He has won a pair of tickets to see England's world cup qualifier with Georgia at Wembley on 30 April 1997. The seventh month's prize is for matches played between 24 February and 16 March.

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 23 MARCH WEEK 32 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 MARCH - 23 MARCH

GOALKEEPERS										DEFENDERS										MIDFIELDERS										FORWARDS												
CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	Wk32	B	A	Ov	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	Wk32	B	A	Ov	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	Wk32	B	A	Ov	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	Wk32	B	A	Ov	VALUE							
300	Scamman	ARS	0	36	9	47	59	47	478	Ruddock	LIV	0	2	31	33	3.0	649	Stimpson	DER	0	15	11	26	12	837	Spencer	CHE	0	6	0	6	0	6.5	825	Spencer	CHE	0	6	0	6	0	6.5
301	Bonach	ARS	5	5	45	47	47	4.0	479	Hartman																																

Mandella eloquent as he takes to world stage

Racing
GREG WOOD
reports from Dubai

Wherever it was that Richard Mandella learned to train racehorses, he clearly skipped a class. It was the one which most British trainers seem to have taken twice, where they learn to be suspicious, aloof and evasive - everything, in fact, that Mandella is not.

The American will saddle Siphon and Sandpit, the first and second favourites in the Dubai World Cup, the richest race on the planet, this Saturday, which is pressure enough in itself. Yet even after hearing yesterday that both had drawn a difficult wide stall for the \$4m (£2.5m) event, Mandella displayed his chances with a willingness and turn of phrase which would appeal to many of his British counterparts.

"The way the race-track's set up here, I don't think it makes a lot of difference," he said. "Siphon [drawn 10] will be spinning his tyres and going to

the front when he leaves. There's not much we can do to change that and I wouldn't want to try. We're just happy to be in there. Two bullets are always better than one and I couldn't split them."

Both Siphon and Sandpit make Siphon's favourite for Saturday's main event, at around 5-2, while Sandpit, who recently finished just behind Siphon in the Santa Anita Handicap when running on dirt

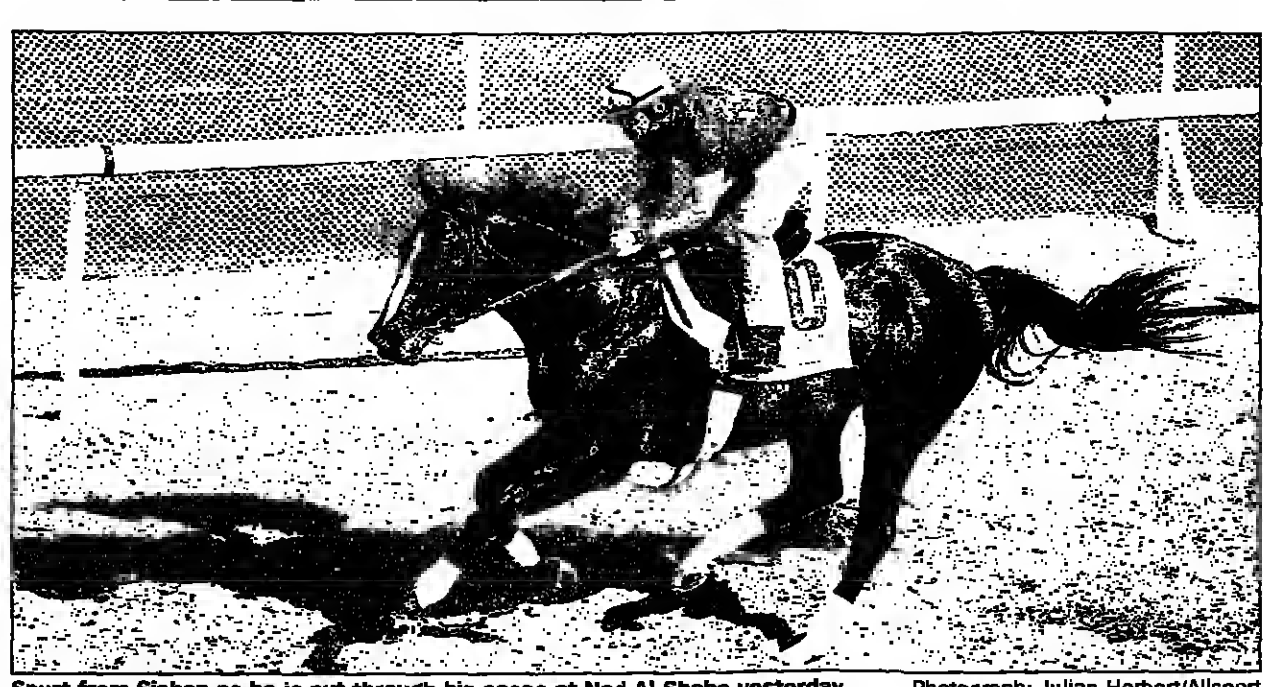
for the first time, is 7-2 with Ladbrokes. That the dirt-hardened Americans are rated so highly is not surprising given that they filled the first three places in last year's inaugural World Cup, and it is a measure of the task facing Heltio, last October's brilliant winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, that he is finally available at 6-1 with William Hill.

For British punters, a flat race of such quality between the jumping pinnacles of Chel-

tenham and Aintree may be a difficult concept to grasp. Yet the standard of Saturday's 10-furlong contest is undeniable, not least when summed up by Mandella as only an American can.

"Flemensfirth looks a million dollars," the trainer said. "He breezed a mile in 1:35 and change here last week and he's a great racehorse. Heltio won the Arc pulled up, and how great a horse does it take to do that? Singspiel, if he can adapt from dirt to turf is a great horse too. It's just one after another. The Japanese mare [Hokuto Vega] is 10 for 10, so how are you going to know what that means until it happens?"

Five of the 13 runners will run for British yards, with John Gosden's Flemensfirth (10-1) and Singspiel (6-1), who won the world's second richest race, the Japan Cup, for Michael Stoute last year, reckoned to stand the greatest chance of success. They drew stalls six and two respectively yesterday, while Heltio will start from box four. Even Top, runner-up to Singspiel in 2,000 Guineas, is against the rail



Spurt from Siphon as he is put through his paces at Nad Al Sheba yesterday

Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

in one, while the outsiders Bijou D'Inde and Luso pulled out five and seven. All this left the line-up with a slightly top-sided look, since the obvious pace-setters Siphon and Key Of Luck (in 13) are wide and those which tend to be held up (Even Top, Singspiel) are close to the rail. However, Richard Hills, the man who will be steering Even Top, was not unduly concerned about his almost two months, and always

ride this course," he said, and having enjoyed an extremely profitable winter on the dirt of Nad Al Sheba, he should know. "There are long straights and long corners so there's plenty of time to move around."

A more important factor than the draw for all the European challengers will be their affinity, or otherwise, with Dubai's dirt track. Even Top has at least been acclimatising for almost two months, and always

gallops behind another horse to give him a taste of the kick-back but whether he will enjoy receiving constant facefuls of dust on Saturday is impossible to say. "I don't know if you'd call it an advantage for us," Mandella said, "but for us there's a better confidence level. We know we've done it."

With Juggler from Australia also in the field, the second Dubai World Cup will include Group One winners from four continents, with total earnings of \$22m (£13.75m), while victory for the Japanese mare Hokuto Vega would push her past Cigar, the winner of the race 12 months ago, as the highest earner in the sport's history. Great quantities of honour and cash will be at stake on the Dubai dirt this Saturday, and British punters who still believe that the race is little more than a gimmick have just three days left to see sense.

Aintree ban riles McCoy

Tony McCoy's agent, Dave Roberts, yesterday called for a Jockey Club inquiry after the jockey was belatedly ruled out of the Grand National following a fall at Uttoxeter last Tuesday. McCoy was originally signed off for 10 days for concussion by the racecourse doctor, Andrew Toman, however,

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Greenback
(Ascot 3.05)
NB: Haze Derring
(Ascot 4.10)

the Jockey Club's chief medical adviser, Dr Michael Turner, ruling the initial ban "inappropriate," increased it to 21 days. "Tony is upset that the decision took so long to be made," Roberts said, "and that he was informed at 10.30 at night. The doctor at the racecourse allowed Tony to drive home from Uttoxeter. If he was unconscious for three minutes this should never have been allowed."

Dr Turner said: "The racecourse doctor did not follow the Rules of Racing and handed Tony an inappropriate suspension, which had to be modified. I have merely imposed the Rules and rectified the error."

Balding fine is quashed

Toby Balding has succeeded in his appeal against a £1,000 fine for the running of Falden Field at Exeter last Wednesday. A 30-day ban on the horse, who was found by the stewards to have not obtained the best possible placing by the Jockey Club Divisional Committee. Falden Field's jockey, Barry Benton, will have to serve a six-day suspension, reduced from eight days. Balding said: "The horse was at Exeter to do his best. The committee accepted that, and that the jockey understood his instructions from me."

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

2.30: WHO IS EQUINE blundered for the first time, but has much less racing than his main rivals, Exterior Profiles and Juggler, and can show enough improvement to win this.

3.05: GREENBACK put in a solid performance to be third in a hot novice chase at Kempton last Saturday and is marginally preferred in a race in which none of the five runners can be ruled out.

3.35: MISTER RM was going well when falling at Cheltenham and, although even for this race with the Title, is still the best bet.

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES

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CATTERICK 972 982
FOLKESTONE 973 983
ALL COURSES LISTED
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DUBAI WORLD CUP 1st £1,426,571; 2nd £476,190; 3rd £238,096; 4th £119,048; 5th £71,426; 6th £47,619 2m 2f	
1. 3654A	EVER TOP (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
2. 2212B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
3. 1322A	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
4. 1311B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
5. 1302B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
6. 1301B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
7. 1300B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
8. 1299B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
9. 1298B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
10. 1297B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
11. 1296B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
12. 1295B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
13. 1294B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1

HYPERION	
2.00 Disallowed	4.10 Southerly Point
2.30 Who is Equine	4.45 Quiet Confidence
3.05 Greenback	5.15 Spirit of Steel
3.35 MISTER RM (nap)	

GOING: Good (Good to Firm to placed)
1. Greenback (Good to Firm to placed)
 2. Who is Equine (Good to Firm to placed)
 3. MISTER RM (Good to Firm to placed)
 4. Southerly Point (Good to Firm to placed)
 5. Quiet Confidence (Good to Firm to placed)
 6. Spirit of Steel (Good to Firm to placed)

2.00 CITY INDEX SPREAD BETTING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,745
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

2.30 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £16,000 3m 11yds Penalty Value £10,892
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

3.05 DAILY TELEGRAPH NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £20,000 added 2m 3f 11yds Penalty Value £14,070
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

3.35 MISTER RM was going well when falling at Cheltenham and, although even for this race with the Title, is still the best bet.

4.10 CITY INDEX SPREAD BETTING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,745
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

CITY INDEX SPREAD BETTING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,745	
1. 3654A	EVER TOP (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
2. 2212B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
3. 1322A	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
4. 1311B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
5. 1302B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
6. 1301B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
7. 1300B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
8. 1299B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
9. 1298B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
10. 1297B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
11. 1296B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
12. 1295B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
13. 1294B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1

4.10 ALPINE MEADOW HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 3f 11yds Penalty Value £4,925
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

4.45 MAHONIA HUNT CHASE (CLASS H) £4,000 added 2m 3f 11yds Penalty Value £2,702
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

5.15 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 11yds Penalty Value £1,956
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

5.45 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 11yds Penalty Value £1,956
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

6.15 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 11yds Penalty Value £1,956
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

6.45 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 11yds Penalty Value £1,956
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

HYPERION	
2.10 Carol Grimes 2.40 Dandelion 3.15 Junie	
3.45 Sharpe West 4.20 Father Dan 4.55 Aybeegit 5.25 Taski Chini	

2.10 HEADCORN MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2m 11yds 5f
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

2.40 ROCHESTER HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 6f
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

3.15 SHORNECLIFF MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2m 11yds 5f
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

3.45 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 6f 13yds
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

3.55 KINGSNORTH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3y0 1m 4f
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

4.05 TOYTOP MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 6f
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

ALDINGTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3y0 6f 18yds	
1. 3654A	EVER TOP (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
2. 2212B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
3. 1322A	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
4. 1311B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
5. 1302B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
6. 1301B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
7. 1300B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
8. 1299B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
9. 1298B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
10. 1297B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
11. 1296B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
12. 1295B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1
13. 1294B	STILLAR (R) Singspiel (M) 10/1

4.20 ALKHAM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 12f 13yds
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

4.55 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 6f 13yds
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

5.25 KINGSNORTH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3y0 1m 4f
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

5.55 TOYTOP MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 6f
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

6.25 WARM HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 12f 13yds
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

6.55 WHORLTON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3y0 1m 4f
 1. 3654A
 2. 2212B
 3. 1322A
 4. 1311B
 5. 1302B
 6. 1301B
 7. 1300B
 8. 1299B
 9. 1298B
 10. 1297B
 11. 1296B
 12. 1295B
 13. 1294B

sport

The enduring gifts of three wise men

Ahead of the Easter weekend biographical trilogy on BBC2, Ken Jones offers his own insight into the minds and methods of three outstanding football men, born within a stone's throw of one another in the west of Scotland and each destined for managerial greatness

Any serious attempt to chronicle the impact made on football in one era by three men, Bill Shankly, Matt Busby and Jock Stein, requires an understanding of the important influences that shaped them. Shankly's description of the marvellous teamwork central to Liverpool's success under his passionate management as "football socialism" and the bond he forged with the club's supporters were statements about working class values, that innate sense of fairness and mutual dependence familiar to all who were born into mining communities.

In the television trilogy, *Arena: Busby, Stein and Shankly - The Football Men* that goes out on BBC2 over Easter weekend, Hugh McIlvanney sees them not merely as great figures in the game, men of wise and independent virtue, but as representatives of the people.

Even allowing for his prolific reputation in football (the area around Shankly's birthplace, Glenbuck, sent out 50 professional players including 11 internationals), that three such notable managers should be born within a few miles of each other in the West of Scotland coalfield is in itself remarkable.

All three knew the hardships and perils of working underground, and with their young adult's bodies, and the intelligence, and the courage and the drive that would lead to so many triumphs they learned what they wanted.

Stein would state that he never expected to come across better men than he worked with in the pits (sectarian differences had no currency at the coalface). If more at ease in football's upper circles, Busby too took strength from a working class upbringing, strength that enabled him to overcome terrible injuries sustained in the Munich disaster and create another team. Shankly was never less than utterly true to his roots, carrying a deep suspicion of directors to



Bill Shankly (left), Matt Busby and Jock Stein (right): Not merely great figures in the game, men of wise and independent virtue, but representatives of the people

his grave. "The only song I knew by heart was the Red Flag," he once said. If there is more than a hint of similar political affiliation in McIlvanney's narrative, and Frank Hanly's imaginative and sensitive direction, it ought not to trouble them. The truth about Busby, Shankly and Stein, one that affects me personally, is that they gave no evidence of backsliding. Upon being made a Freeman of Manchester, resplendent in formal attire, Busby began with the words: "I was born in a pitman's cottage." Shankly with his Cagneyesque poses and acute sense of imagery - "I'll visit London again when it's completed," he said in retirement - never lost sight of boyhood experiences.

Enthusiasm was all. "Players who don't dedicate themselves to the game and forget their duty to the supporters should be jailed," he snapped. Unlike his two compatriots, both pre-World War Two internationals, Stein achieved no distinction as a player until Celtic recruited him from the Welsh non-League club Llanelli as a reserve centre-half. Selected for the first team in an emergency, he kept his place and led Celtic to victory in the Scottish Cup final.

It is Stein's return to Parkhead, after a successful apprenticeship in management with Dunfermline and Hibernian that brought him to the attention of clubs in England, that provides the most fascinating insights.

The music is emotive; the troubled 30s blues of Duke Ellington over stark images of life in the coalfields, a forgotten music hall artist, Bob Smith, singing the "Red Flag" with stirring clarity; the haunting "Fields of Athenry" emphasising the pervading awfulness of immigrant life in the east Glasgow ghettos. Stein's arrival back at the club he would transform into a major European force is attended by Dean Martin's version of "Return to me". It was not without pain. Only the fourth manager Celtic had ever appointed, the first non-Catholic, Stein had to suffer the resentment of fellow Protestants he had thought to be friends. Appalled by bigotry in all its forms, he took their

rejection in his stride. "They proved they weren't my friends," he said. Considering that Stein had to overcome personal difficulties imposed by sectarianism and out through the insularity of Scottish football, there is a case for concluding that he established a slight edge in management over Busby and Shankly and such redoubtable contemporaries as Alf Ramsey, Bill Nicholson and Don Revie. Importantly, I think, all abided by a creed of mutual loyalty. From the beginning it was Busby's resolve to treat players in a way that players of his day were not treated. The most important thing about Shankly was that he could convey his enthusiasm to the players. None of them allowed

liberties to be taken, but what set Stein apart (he could be as fly as they come when dealing with problems in the dressing room and some thought him to be bit of a bully) was the understanding that football had to be set in a wider context. Shankly and Liverpool were made for each other. The city was Glasgow with a different accent. "It was the place in football I was looking for," he said. "There was a great passion for the game." He tapped it to such great effect that his legacy has become a legend. Bob Paisley achieved great things in succession, winning the European Cup three times, a prize that eluded Shankly, but the foundations were laid long ago in Glenbuck.

Celtic's 2-1 defeat of Internazionale to win the European Cup in 1967, the first success by a British club in the competition, brought Stein recognition throughout football. "John, you're immortal," Shankly said to him in the dressing room afterwards. Seeing again the devastating effect of Celtic's controlled surges on the arch disciples of defensive play, you can only marvel at the improvement Stein brought about in players who, by then, would have probably drifted into obscurity but for his presence among them. A year later, Manchester United matched Celtic's distinction when overcoming Benfica on a night of great emotion at Wembley. For Busby it was, at last, the realisation of a vision lost in the wreckage of an airliner.

The differences that emerge from the careers of Busby, Shankly and Stein make it abundantly evident that there is no absolute method of managing a team. Busby himself would have claimed no great prowess as a tactician - "too much mind will destroy the game," he once said in a moment of exasperation - but none had keener eyes for a player or a clearer idea of a blend.

In Shankly's mind, enthusiasm, honesty and togetherness were essential. "Every player who comes here is under scrutiny from the moment he arrives," he can be heard saying. "I know the colour of their eyes, every one of them." The tactics he laid down were simple but inviolable: don't let attackers turn and, if they do, track them down quickly. Never run the ball out of the penalty area and always support the man in possession. What Liverpool were then they are now. Shankly's mark is still on them.

Stein was a winner because he was shorter than most of his competition, because he was an unyielding perfectionist and because he imposed his will on his players with the sheer force of his personality. He made sure that he had some pretty good players, too.

There are managers who are disciplinarians and fitness fanatics and they are pale imitations of these three men. How they would have coped with today's circumstances, ever escalating salaries and the influence of agents is another story. Ian St John is convinced that Busby and Shankly colluded to keep matters in check after the removal of the maximum wage. "They didn't place a great deal of importance on money," he said. Times change, maybe for the worse, maybe for the better, but this account of three tremendous careers in football reminds us that no amount of corporate development can obliterate the game's working class history.

Arena: Busby, Stein and Shankly, the Football Men starts Friday 9.30pm, BBC2.

West Ham favourites for signature of Lomas

ALAN NIXON

Manchester City's Steve Lomas looks set to sign for West Ham in a shock £2.5m transfer deadline deal. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, agreed a price for the Northern Ireland midfielder with City's Frank Clark yesterday.

Redknapp wants to strengthen his team despite the Hammers' recent upturn in results and has money to invest on the hard-working Lomas.

Coventry's manager, Gordon Strachan, still hopes to persuade Lomas to join his struggling side but West Ham are the firm favourites to sign Lomas, who was not offered a new contract at City.

Blackburn's caretaker manager, Tony Parkes, has been assured that his future at Ewood Park is safe. Roy Hodgson, who is due to take over at Blackburn in the summer, has dismissed reports that he intends to bring in his own backroom staff.

Parkes, who has presided over a revival in Rovers' fortunes, said: "Roy was very concerned by the stories and called me. He has made his feelings

clear and there's no problem as far as I am concerned."

There had been reports that Bob Houghton, a colleague of Hodgson's in his days at Bristol City and Malmö, and Mike Kelly, a former England goal-keeping coach, were being lined up for jobs at Ewood Park.

Bristol City's chairman, Scout Davidson, wants to waste no time in appointing a replacement for Joe Jordan, who left the 10th-placed Second Division club by mutual consent on Monday. Davidson said he had already received a number of applications. John Ward, the former Bristol Rovers manager, and Bournemouth's manager, Mel Machin, have been linked with the vacancy.

Alex Ferguson has dismissed reports in foreign newspapers that he is interested in signing either Barcelona's Brazilian striker, Ronaldo, or Sean Dundee, the Karlsruhe striker.

Ronaldo was reported in the Spanish press to be considering offers from United, Milan and Paris Saint-Germain. The South African-born Dundee, now eligible for Germany, was said to have been watched by Ferguson during his club's 2-0 defeat by Bayern Munich on Sunday.

according to a report in the German press.

Manchester United and Rotherham have agreed terms for Kevin Pilkington if the 23-year-old goalkeeper wants to make a permanent move to Millmoor. Pilkington has been at Rotherham on a month's loan, which has been extended to the end of the season.

Willie Carson, who recently hung up his crop, has joined Swindon as an associate director. An ardent football fan, Carson lives in nearby Cirencester and has agreed to become involved in the club.

Swindon could re-sign their former defender Phil King from Aston Villa on a free transfer before tomorrow's deadline.

King, who has suffered a number of injuries, has been on trial with the First Division side. Gillingham are keen to sign the third-choice Newcastle goalkeeper, Steve Harper, before the transfer deadline so he can help the club to preserve its Second Division status.

The Celtic striker Jorge Cadete is to be investigated by the disciplinary committee of the Scottish FA for throwing his shirt to fans. Cadete stripped off his Celtic shirt and threw it into the crowd at the end of the 2-2 draw with Dunfermline.

Supporters at Scottish League matches are being encouraged to report misbehaving fans in a Scottish Football Association initiative to stamp out crowd trouble.

After a meeting between club representatives hosted by the SFA at Stirling's Forthbank Stadium, it was decided to target fans who spit or throw missiles.

Wales do without Crossley

Mark Crossley, the Nottingham Forest goalkeeper, has pulled out of the Wales squad for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Belgium because of a back injury.

Crossley managed to play in Forest's 1-1 draw against Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium on Monday night, but he is suffering from a slipped disc which is preventing him from training in between matches and has told Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, that he will not be joining up with the squad.

Crossley intends to nurse himself through relegation-threatened Forest's remaining five league games before having treatment for the injury.

"I'm gutted about it but I've had to drop out of the Wales squad," said Crossley, who made an impressive international debut in last month's friendly against the Republic of Ireland. "I've spoken to Bobby and he knows what the situation is."

Gould, anticipating Crossley's problems, included four goalkeepers in his original squad in Neville Southall, Crossley, Andy Marriott and Paul Jones, and he is also hoping that Mark Hughes will recover from a groin strain in time to face the Belgians.

Hughes appeared as a second-half substitute in Chelsea's 1-0 defeat at Middlesbrough at the weekend despite his injury, but will delay joining the squad.

"Mark is staying at Chelsea for treatment for the next couple of days, but I'm still hopeful that he'll be fit for Saturday," Gould added. He has called up the Huddersfield midfielder Marcus Browning in case Hughes has to drop out.

Belgium could be without the Newcastle centre-back Philippe Albert, who suffered a knee injury during Sunday's 1-1 with Wimbledon.

Arsenal's Patrick Vieira and Franck Leboeuf of Chelsea were both named in France's provisional squad of 37 for next year's World Cup, but there was still no place for Eric Cantona or David Ginola.

From the list, Almé Jacquet will pick a reduced squad of 18 for the friendly international against Sweden at Parc des Princes next Wednesday.

Sport increasingly threatened by the spectre of court action

Middlesbrough Football Club will today have the leading QC George Carmon appearing on their behalf at their appeal before a Football Association Commission against the deduction of three points for their refusal to play at Blackburn earlier this season.

No-one who had seen Mr Carmon in action would doubt the wisdom of seeking his assistance. Nonetheless, his presence will raise for many the unwelcome spectre of increased intervention in sporting matters by lawyers and the courts.

This legal intervention can take many forms. In 1995, Duncan Ferguson felt it at its most severe when he was sentenced to three months in jail after head-butting an opposing player when playing for Rangers. In the same year, Manchester United's Eric Cantona was sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment - committed to 120 hours community service on appeal - for his karate kick on a Crystal Palace fan. Despite the high profile of these two cases, criminal sanctions for participants in sporting events are still relatively rare.

A growing area of legal recourse is the seeking of damages for sporting injuries. Recently, Bradford City instigated legal proceedings on behalf of their player, Gordon Watson, against the Huddersfield Town defender Kevin Gray following a tackle on Watson by Gray which resulted in the Huddersfield

player suffering a double fracture of the leg. Such actions are not always successful.

In 1994 Chelsea's Paul Elliott lost when he sued Liverpool's Dean Saunders after a tackle which ended Elliott's career. The judge decided that Saunders did not intend to hurt Elliott and that Saunders was not guilty of an unacceptable standard of play.

Players are not the only ones subject to damages claims. In a case which received widespread publicity last year, a referee of a colts rugby match was held liable for a serious back injury caused to a player when a scrum collapsed. The decision was confirmed by the Court of Appeal.

However, the judge was at pains to indicate the exceptional circumstances of the case - in particular that it was a colts game and the fact that the rules of rugby were modified for such games, which was significant in giving rise to liability in this case. Interestingly, the plaintiff had also sued the opposing head-butting player, but the judge held that there was no evidence that the prop did anything deliberate to bring down the scrum and so the claim against him failed.

Perhaps the most significant

recent intervention by the courts into the sporting arena was the Bosman decision of the European Court of Justice. The Court decided that the restrictions on the free movement of players at the end of their contracts and the limit of three foreign players at each club were contrary to the laws of the European Union.

The full ramifications of the decision are still not known (the changes regarding freedom of movement may be largely avoided by means of longer contracts) but a greater influx of overseas players into the English league has already taken place.

In effect the Bosman verdict decided the rules by which football governed itself could not apply, and for many sports bodies the biggest cause of concern is when their final authority is questioned in the courts. This is the threat that hangs over today's appeal: Carmon's certain to point out that, under the Premier League's Rule 19, a club failing to fulfil its fixtures shall only pay compensation to the opposing club.

In response Anthony Grabbin QC, who is representing the League, will certainly respond that under Rule Seven of the Premier League's Power of

Commission (agreed by all member clubs at its inception) the League can "impose such penalties by way of reprimand, fine, suspension, deduction of points, expulsion" or any combination of those punishments as it thinks fit.

If the FAs three-man commission upholds the deduction of three points, Middlesbrough will be tempted to take their case to a court of law. If they do, the grounds are by no means clear. Duncan Ferguson was successful when he sought to quash the decision of the Scottish Football Association to impose a 12-match ban on him for the head-butting incident for which he was sent to prison. The court decided that the SFA had not followed its own rules properly.

But the parameters of such actions are not clear. When the Football League took action against the Football Association in 1991 after the Football Association proposed to establish the Premiership, the judge held that the Football Association was not a body which was subject to the review of the courts.

The increasing legalisation of sport is reflected in the fact that presently nine Premiership clubs have lawyers on their books. With football's financial rewards continually growing, and the legal issues getting ever more complex, this number is likely only to increase. Dan Trench is a solicitor at Lovell White Durrant.

Ravanelli looks no further than Wembley

Fabrizio Ravanelli has been given leave of absence by the Italian coach, Cesare Maldini, to miss this week's World Cup double-header dates with Moldova and Poland, enhancing the Middlesbrough striker's chances of making the Coca-Cola Cup final.

Bryan Robson, Ravanelli's club manager, is increasingly hopeful that he will overcome a hamstring problem before Boro face Leicester at Wembley on 6 April. But while the former Juventus player is confident of making the final he was not prepared to discuss his future at the Riverside.

Ravanelli has missed Boro's last two games through injury,

although Robson said yesterday: "He feels he'll be back in training by Sunday and that would give a full week of training leading up to the final."

At the Italian squad's training camp in Florence, the player himself said: "The doctor has told me I have to rest for three days, but then I can start work. My aim is to become the first Italian to win a cup in England and I hope I can make the Coca-Cola Cup final, because I know we can [win] it."

Pressed on the rest of the season, however, Ravanelli was non-committal. "Not only do I think we can win at least one of the cups, but I'm convinced we'll stay in the Premiership," he said.

"But as for other things and my future, I'll only think about them at the end of the season."

Alf Inge Haland is likewise convinced his club, Nottingham Forest, will stay in the Premiership, but believes the fight for survival will go right to the wire. Forest, currently third from bottom, have only five games left to save themselves from relegation, with only eight points separating the bottom seven clubs.

They have gleaned two precious points from successive 1-1 draws away to follow strong Sunderland and Middlesbrough. Now they must take full advantage of their three remaining home games if Forest are to escape relegation.

"It's so tight at the bottom of the table that it looks like the fight to stay up is going to go all the way to the end of the season," Haland said.

"We're struggling but the morale is still good at the club and that can be a big help. We're hanging in there and we're quite confident that we'll stay up."

Whether Haland remains at the City Ground to play his part in the survival battle will become clear by tomorrow. The Norwegian international, who scored Forest's goal against Boro on Monday night, has until tomorrow's transfer deadline to sign an extension to his existing contract, which expires in the summer.



TODAY'S NUMBER

45

The number of years in jail that the boxing promoter Don King faces if he is found guilty of re-trial in New York of insurance fraud. King also faces a fine of \$2.25m (£1.4m). The original jury was unable to reach a verdict.



Pick of the pride
Chris Hewett on the Lions for
South Africa, page 28

sport

Three wise men
Ken Jones on Busby, Stein
and Shankly, page 30

Hoddle stays calm through injury time

GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

Given the daily medical bulletins being issued from Team England, it was no surprise to see a M*A*S*H-style tent erected at the corner of the training field at Bisham Abbey yesterday. With red markings on its white fabric, it looked just like a field hospital and one expected to see Hot Lips or Hawkeye to come rushing out to meet a laden helicopter at any moment.

Instead, there was Glenn Hoddle doing his impression of Major Burns as he counted the casualties in his dwindling England squad and insisting nothing was amiss.

The England coach was reduced to putting on a training session for just six outfield players yesterday, which tested even his expertise. This was partly because the survivors of Monday night's Highbury encounter were allowed to rest, but also because of his original 25-man squad, five never turned up and eight others are carrying injuries.

The upshot was a SOS for reinforcements, with Stan Collymore, who could not even get into the Liverpool team a week ago, leading the way. Hoddle saw him at Highbury and said: "He has impressed me recently. In Europe last week and at Arsenal, the appetite was there, the talent has always been there. Had been match-sharp he could have had three at Highbury, but at least he has in these getting chances." Collymore,



No legs eleven: Because of injuries and fatigue, Glenn Hoddle was forced to take a training session for just six players at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

who disappointed in winning two caps in 1995, said: "I'm delighted. You can't judge someone on just a couple of games."

Phil Neville has also been summoned along with Stuart Pearce, while David May was called up on Sunday. With Saturday's match against Mexico only being a friendly, Hoddle

originally left Pearce out so the Nottingham Forest caretaker manager could concentrate on club matters - this is transfer deadline week. However, he rang Pearce yesterday and asked him to Bisham on the understanding he would play.

Of the injured, Gary Neville, Tony Adams and Gareth South-

gate (all ankle), are most doubtful. Matt Le Tissier will be assessed once Saturday's injection in his foot has taken full effect.

"He is very sore and tender, so we won't know how he is until Thursday," Hoddle said.

Graeme Souness, Le Tissier's club manager, is unhappy with the call-up, and said: "I don't

want Matt written off for the season like Paul Gascoigne was after training with England."

An aggrieved Hoddle responded: "Graeme was not here when Gazza was. If he wants to phone me and ask what was done, he can. The injured players will be well treated here. They may receive differ-

ent treatment from at their clubs - the guys working here are at the very top."

Hoddle also rejected suggestions that it was a mistake to arrange the match. "My first four games were World Cup qualifiers and this is the first chance I have had to experiment. It is common sense to take it. At this stage of

next season I will probably settle for a training camp." However, he admitted: "If I had had a crystal ball six months ago and knew how many players would be injured, I may have just done that anyway."

It should have been obvious that with the season reaching a climax, managers would be re-

luctant to release players who were carrying injuries. However, the Premiership programme had to be cancelled because of matches elsewhere and it is a chance for Hoddle to see other players and debrief the survivors from the Italy game - one reason why he has insisted the likes of Le Tissier come.

ENGLAND'S WOUNDED: NOT THE TEAM TO FACE MEXICO

Unavailable through injury when squad was picked

Selected but never arrived at Bisham because of injury

Arrived at Bisham but yet to train because of injury and doubtful for Saturday's match



Fit members of the squad: *James, *Redknapp, *Fowler, *Keown, *I Wright, Butt, Flowers, Martyn, Lee, Le Saux, Betty, Ince (12). * did not train yesterday having played Monday. Called up: Pearce, Collymore, P. Neville, May.

'I wish to congratulate you for your act of sportsmanship'

GLENN MOORE

Less than a week after incurring the displeasure of Uefa, football's European governing body, for supporting the sacked Liverpool dockers, Robbie Fowler was yesterday canonised by Fifa for his sportsmanship.

Sepp Blatter, the executive secretary of the game's world governing body, thanked Fowler by fax for "helping maintain the integrity of the game".

Fowler himself was keeping quiet yesterday, which may have been a good idea given the bizarre nature of some of the tributes. One tabloid newspaper tried to present him with an old and unscrubbed cup for being the sportsman of the decade.

Television pictures suggested Fowler had told Gerald Asby that he had fallen after the referee had awarded a penalty following his tumble over David Seaman at Highbury on Monday night.

"Robbie felt the need to point out that Seaman hadn't touched him," Stan Collymore, his Liverpool strike partner, said yesterday. "A lot of players would have just left it at the referee's whistle."

"I can't say what the team's reaction would have been if [the penalty had been revoked] and the game had ended 1-1," David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, said. "Different people in the squad would react in different ways. More generally

I am not in favour of bringing in television for those decisions. The human element is one of the reasons people like football."

Both players had initially thought Fowler was trying to save Seaman from being sent off. Blatter had no doubts. His fax read: "I wish to congratulate you for the act of sportsmanship which you demonstrated. Visibly trying to persuade the referee from awarding a penalty in your favour did you great honour. It is the kind of gesture

which helps maintain the integrity of the game."

"At a time when there is a disturbing trend towards cheating, and when Fifa is appealing to players (especially in the professional game) to help referees rather than deceive them, your example at this vital moment in such an important match should set an example to younger players and fellow professionals alike. Thank you for helping Fifa in its efforts for the good of the game."

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the players' union, the PFA, said: "I'd like any youngster coming into the game to use him as a role model for what he did. Not only was he clearly admitting he did not deserve a penalty, but also showing his concern as a fellow professional might be sent off. I know Robbie has a reputation for being a little bit of a scallywag on occasions, but nobody could fault him here."

The beaten manager was just as generous about Fowler, but

not about Asby. "It was a great gesture by Fowler and I would like to give him an award for fair play," said Arsene Wenger, who then added: "But if he got that I would also have to give the referee an award for stupidity."

Glenn Hoddle, while praising Fowler, gave the impression he would not be too pleased if he did it in an England shirt. "It was an honest reaction - you could argue if it was professional," he said.

Referees were divided. David Elleray pointed out that even if Seaman had not made contact, the "recklessness" of his challenge probably brought Fowler down.

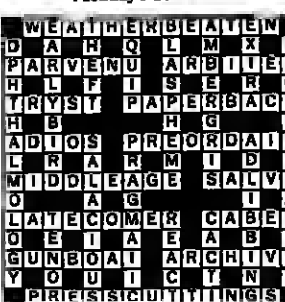
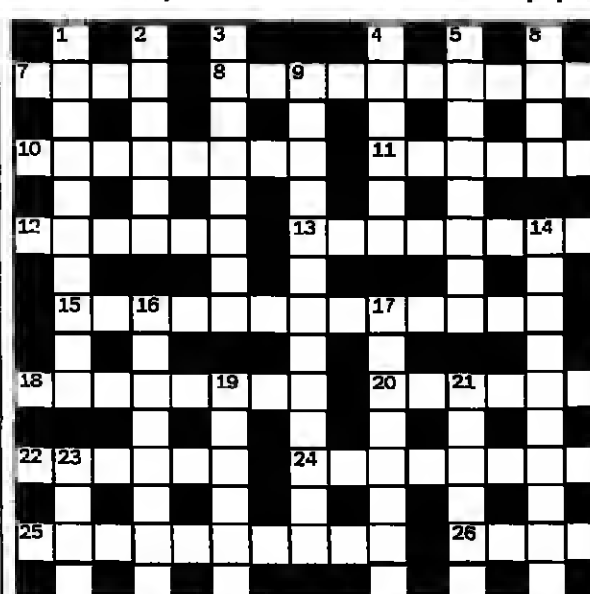
Steven Lodge, the FA Cup final referee, said: "The first time I saw it I thought it was a harsh decision. Then I saw it again and thought he had clipped the back leg. Other referees have seen it the other way. It shows what a hard decision it was. You can see why he gave it."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3256, Wednesday 26 March

By Aquila

Monday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- 7 Cry of pain? It's the old disc! (4)
 - 8 Price so steep, so argue out a settlement (10)
 - 10 Lines on style from Don Juan, for example (4-4)
 - 11 Makes small amount of progress in Winchester (6)
 - 12 Practise fighting with soldiers in tough old state (6)
 - 13 Fresh catch of herring at one old penny? That was novel in Victorian times (8)
 - 15 High tars used to bring people round (8-5)
 - 18 Rustling, we hear, in France? (8)
 - 20 Caddis, later on - (6)
 - 22 Night bird in garden got out (6)
 - 24 Canute was so unlucky, making tide fall (3-5)

- 25 Frank ahead - just! (10)
 - 26 Temporarily fastened, you say, with delicacy? (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Bliss, say, holding up a pair of scales? Naturally, one breaks up! (10)
 - 2 Come up with a paper that is extraordinary (6)
 - 3 Bird after new moon is one-track (8)
 - 4 A paint spread to produce surface-sheen (6)
 - 5 Clement almost stocked following wicked crime (8)
 - 6 Expected to clutch penny in this truck? (4)
 - 9 Taking many minutes when sectioning Mum, gone crazy (4-9)
 - 14 Eric, senile, surprisingly showing tendency to recover (10)

- 16 English characteristic in correspondence (8)
- 17 Amulet is set to look like the real thing (8)
- 19 Additional clauses for Synge's main characters? (8)
- 21 Unknown numbers, around the orient, in a ferment (6)
- 23 A pitcher holding reeds (4)

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Middlesbrough call on Carman

BILL PIERCE

Middlesbrough will ask the Football Association today to give them back the three points the Premier League deducted after they called off their fixture at Blackburn in December at just 24 hours' notice.

Boro will have their appeal, to be heard at a Heathrow hotel by a three-man FA commission, on a claim that the League has no powers to inflict such a penalty, which was also accompanied by a £50,000 fine and an order to pay Blackburn's costs for staging the fixture.

The Premier League, however, is convinced it can prove that it was legally correct to deduct the points.

Boro's case will be enhanced by the distinguished barrister George Carman, who will present their appeal. The 67-year-old QC has scored a notable series of successes in the High

Court, such as defending Imran Khan against a libel action brought by Ian Botham and Allan Lamb last year.

Carman is expected to present a formidable challenge for the Premier League's own legal representative, Anthony Grabbin QC.

The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, who insists he had to call off the match at Blackburn on 21 December because he had 24 players injured or ill, is "hopeful" his club will win their appeal. The commission has the power to adjust the punishment, cancel it completely or even increase it.

Robson said: "We just hope that people will see common sense and understand the predicament we were in at that time." Middlesbrough looked certain for relegation when the three points were deducted in January but since then have hit a rich vein of form to climb clear of the bottom three.

Blackburn will have their own legal representatives present at the appeal and may even submit that the three points Middlesbrough lost should be awarded to them.

The Premier League's spokesman Mike Lee said: "It would be inappropriate for us to comment at this stage but obviously we believe the original decision was a correct one."

It is clear that the Blackburn-Middlesbrough game will be rearranged, and another option for the appeal board is to order that Boro play it with only the players they claimed were available on 21 December.

The Premier League's rule 19 states that no club shall, without just cause, fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of any League match on the appointed date or dates. The club failing... shall pay compensation to the opposing club.

Sport threatened by court action, page 30

Brive to contest Lamaison ban

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWETT

It is becoming the most talked about shoulder charge since JPR Williams secured a Grand Slam for Wales by barging Jean-Francois Gourdon into the Arms Park advertising hoardings back in 1976. Christophe Lamaison's assault on Craig Chalmers 12 days ago landed the victim in hospital, the perpetrator in hot water and now looks like landing the lawyers a bumper pay day.

The French reacted furiously yesterday to the 30-day ban imposed on Lamaison, the goal-kicking centre from Brive, by a Five Nations disciplinary tribunal. Officials of Brive, the European champions, went straight for the jugular by threatening court action.

"We will be talking to the French Federation and our lawyers," Laurent Seigne, the Brive coach, said. "Rugby is a professional sport now and we have to consider if this suspension does not constitute restraint of trade." Seigne was supported by his president, Patrick Sebastian, who said: "Surely this ban should be limited to international rugby."

Ironically, Lamaison will be available for his country's next international, against Romania on 1 June. His suspension rebounds purely on Brive, who must do without their most dependable source of points for four crucial domestic championship matches.

The board of the European Rugby Cup are meeting in Dublin today to present the accounts of this season's wildly successful Heineken Cup. Rumours of French and English discontent

over both the financial handling of the tournament and its long-term future were dismissed yesterday by Roger Pickering, the ERC director, who denied the existence of any move by the Welsh, Scots and Irish to expand the competition into a season-long league. Fears of an Anglo-French breakaway receded when Michel Palmie, one of the French delegates, said he would be offering his full support to next season's 20-team format.

In South Africa, massive public interest in the first match of this summer's Lions tour in Port Elizabeth has forced the organisers to abandon plans to host it at a township ground just outside the city. The game with an Eastern Province Invitation XV will now take place at the Boet Erasmus Stadium, a 35,000-seater Test venue, on 24 May.

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p1

And a beer to go with it.



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777